

Bousalem, Sheikh Sabah meet

KUWAIT (AP) — Algerian Foreign Minister Bousalem Bousalem met Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, who heads an Arab League committee seeking to mediate an end to Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war, during a stopover Sunday. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said that during a long airport meeting, Bousalem was briefed on details of the committee's efforts. The six-member committee has completed consultations with warring factions in Lebanon and legal experts were starting Sunday to formulate a tentative peace formula that would have to be endorsed by the Arab League, possibly at a heads of state meeting. KUNA said that Bousalem, who has been visiting Arab countries including Syria, Jordan and Iraq, briefed Sheikh Sabah about matters "related to Lebanon" on his tour. It gave no other details. Bousalem swung through Arab capitals in efforts by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to help heal rifts in Arab ranks. Reports in the Gulf say his main concern has been bridging differences between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat as well as the rift between Damascus and Baghdad.

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King in Paris en route to U.S.

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein arrived in Paris Sunday for a one-day visit during which he is expected to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand before proceeding to the United States for a scheduled meeting with President George Bush April 19.

The King is scheduled to have lunch with the French president Monday at the Elysee Palace and is expected to leave for the U.S. via London later in the day. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King would discuss with the French and U.S. presidents the latest developments on the Arab and international levels and efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East as well as means of boosting bilateral relations. King Hussein was received upon arrival in Paris by French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs George Sar and senior officials in addition to Jordan's ambassador to France and embassy officials. King Hussein's visit to the U.S. comes in the context of cautious

but optimistic efforts to resolve the Middle East conflict. It is the King's first trip to the U.S. since 1985, and follows back-to-back visits to the U.S. by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. On Saturday, King Hussein met with Palestine President and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who flew in to Amman for a lightning visit. Talks between the two leaders aimed at coordinating positions and were believed to have focused on the PLO's response to Shamir's proposal for polls in the occupied territories to elect Palestinians for "autonomy" negotiations with Israel. A Jordanian official was



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off upon his departure for France Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and senior officials (Petra photo)

quoted by Reuters as saying the King would ask Bush to clarify his qualified support for Shamir's proposal. Jordan and Egypt have said the final response to the plan is up to the PLO. Arafat has said the PLO would accept elections only under international supervision after Israel withdraws from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinians are granted self-determination. King Hussein is also expected to urge the U.S. to accept a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference, to expand the ongoing American-PLO dialogue and to permit the creation of a Palestinian state on the occupied territories. The Jordanian official quoted by Reuters said the King would urge Bush to develop what Jordan sees as a more positive U.S. stance, giving the PLO a major role in Middle East peace talks. Arafat expressed hope Saturday that the King would be able to convince the U.S. president to be more active in efforts to solve the Middle East conflict. "I am sure he (the King) will do his best to... push the Amer-

icans to support the Arab demand for a settlement based on full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," Arafat was quoted as saying in Baghdad before flying to Cairo to meet Mubarak. Petra said the King had received a phone call from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein late Saturday and the two leaders exchanged views on a number of national issues. Accompanying the King on his trip abroad are Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and special advisor Amer Khammash, in addition to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem.

King Hussein was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Family members, senior civil and military officials and the American and French ambassadors to Amman. Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure.

Fees revised for registration, licensing of vehicles, drivers

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a cabinet decision to revise regulations and fees on registration, licensing and driving of vehicles. Under the new regulations an annual fee of JD 200 will be collected for taxi cars, JD 150 for tourist cars, JD 250 for medium-size buses and JD 300 for public transport buses. A one-time fee will be collected for the registration of trucks, trailers and semi-trailers used for public transport, in accordance with the following rates: Cargo trucks with one-tonne loading capacity — JD 200; Public transport trucks with a capacity of more than one-tonne, but not exceeding five tonnes — JD 300; Public transport vehicles with a capacity of more than five tonnes — JD 800. A one-time registration fee on other vehicles will be collected as under: Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding one litre — JD 120; Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding one and a half litres — JD 180; Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding two litres — JD 240; Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding 2.5 litres — JD 300; Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding three litres — JD 360; Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity exceeding three litres — JD 2,000. Cargo trucks with a gross load weight ranging between one-tonne and three tonnes — JD 150-300; Registration fees for taxi cars used for public transport — between JD 100 and JD 1,000 according to the engine capacity; Registration fees for private medium-size buses — JD 150; Registration fees of medium-size buses used for public transport — JD 250; Registration fees for motor cycles — JD 100; Vehicles and other cars not operated by gasoline will be subject to registration fees ranging between JD 120 and JD 2,000. A fee equivalent to 50 per cent of the registration fee, in addition

to 25 per cent of the registration fee, will be collected for the re-registration of written off cars for each year or part of an year following the first year if the car has not been licensed on time (during the grace period). Licensing fees for gasoline-operated private cars range between JD 20 and JD 200 according to engine capacity. However licensing fees for vehicles operated by diesel oil range between JD 90 and JD 450. Licensing fees for gasoline operated public transport cars range between JD 10 and JD 25, while they range between JD 45 and JD 80 for diesel oil-operated cars. Licensing fees for private trucks or public transport trucks range between JD 12 and JD 24. An amount of half a dinar will be added for each tonne or fractions of a tonne in excess of the first three tonnes of the load. For vehicles operated by diesel oil, the fees range between JD 30 and JD 60. A fee ranging between JD 25 and JD 10 will be collected for transferring the number plate from one car to another and for keeping the plate in the licensing authority's custody. A fee of JD 10 will be collected for transferring the ownership of any vehicle. The fee for practical driving test is JD 5 and for the traffic signs test JD 2. A fee ranging between JD 3 and JD 20 will be collected for the technical examination of the car depending on the size of the car and the purposes it is used for. A JD 2 fee will be collected for issuance or renewal of any driving licence and another dinar will be charged for the driving licence or the vehicle's licence card upon its issuance or renewal. A fee of half a dinar will be collected for certification of any document issued by the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Department. A fee of JD 10 will be collected for issuing a driving licence to replace a missing one while a JD 2 fee will be collected for issuing a driving licence in lieu of a damaged one. An annual fee ranging between JD 50 and JD 10 will be collected for issuing licences for taxi offices, driver training schools, car auction centres, car dealers and travel offices. A fee of JD 20 will be collected for transferring a car from a private one to a public one or vice-versa.

Regent hosts iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday hosted an iftar for senior officers from the Jordanian Armed Forces, Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments at Al Hussein Ibn Ali Brigade Club in Zarqa. The iftar was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and the Armed Forces mufti. The Regent and the guests attended Al Maghreb prayer.

Thunder of shelling drowns appeals for calm; Spanish envoy among 20 killed

Beirut burns

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shells, rockets and mortar bombs blasted a burning Beirut Sunday drowning appeals for a halt to the violence and killing at least 20 people, including the Spanish ambassador. During the day of savage battles, the worst in the latest round of bloodletting, nearly 100 people were wounded. Frightened, hungry, and shell-shocked residents hid in shelters and corridors praying that the bloodshed, now in its fifth week, would stop. Police reported that at least 20 people were killed, including Spanish envoy Pedro Manuel de Aristegui, in the ferocious 18-hour blitz that raged from dusk Saturday to mid-afternoon Sunday, when it died down into sporadic shelling. That raised the casualty toll from 40 days of civil war fighting to at least 225 killed and 827 wounded. A police spokesman said the artillery and rocket duels were among the most intense in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war. He said that at one point shells were "falling like rain" around

the hilltop presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, where army commander and head of the military government Michel Aoun lives, and the nearby Defence Ministry in Yarz, his headquarters. Shells also exploded around the mansions of the U.S., French and Egyptian ambassadors in east Beirut. But no casualties were reported. Police reported that the country's main power plant in the Zouk district of east Beirut was set on fire by direct hits. But the blaze was quickly put out by firefighters. Mitri Nammar, chairman of Lebanon's electricity authority, said earlier that the Zouk plant shut down at 11.35 a.m. (0915 GMT) after it ran out of fuel. "The capital and its environs are henceforth without power. People will have to rely on their own generators if they can afford to buy them," Nammar said in a statement. Police said state-run Radio Beirut in west Beirut's Hamra district went off the air when 155-mm shells destroyed its transmission aerial.

The shellfire also started fires in the nine-floor Information Ministry where the radio station is located. The ministry is next to the office of acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, head of the civilian cabinet vying for power with Aoun's military government. Other shells crashed close to the offices of the Associated Press and United Press. Both U.S. news agencies, as well as the French news agency Agence France Presse and the London-based Reuters agency in west Beirut. The office of Italy's ANSA agency in the western sector was damaged by shrapnel. None of the staffer at the five wire services was injured. The Spanish ambassador and his Lebanese wife Joumana were both wounded when a shell crashed into the embassy shelter in the suburbs of Baabda. Doctors at Sacre-Coeur hospital said the ambassador, 61, was hit by a shrapnel in the head and died in hospital. His wife was in critical condition.

EC to pursue Mideast peace parley

GRANADA, Spain (R) — The European Community (EC) plans a series of initiatives over the next two months aimed at convening an international Middle East peace conference, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez said Sunday. He told a news conference the EC could also propose an interim solution to restore peace to the Israeli-occupied territories once it had consulted the Arab and Israeli sides. Among the moves he detailed was a visit to Israel by a senior Spanish Foreign Ministry official before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's trip to Madrid May 23. He also said senior State Department officials would visit Madrid and the 12-nation community would make fresh contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The EC's Middle East working group would then assess the situation, he added. Spain currently chairs the EC Council of Ministers. An EC "troika," comprising the foreign ministers of France, Spain and Greece, earlier this year launched a series of contacts to try to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Views on East bloc

Meeting here Sunday, EC foreign ministers said the concept of a monolithic European East bloc was vanishing, and called on Warsaw Pact nations to press on with recent reforms. During informal talks which reaffirmed EC support for political change in Eastern Europe, the ministers welcomed reforms in Hungary and Poland but vowed to keep pressing Romania over human rights.

Three more turn martyr on Abu Jihad anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot dead three young Palestinians and imposed curfews on nearly a million Palestinians Sunday during a "day of rage" marking the anniversary of the assassination of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad). Hospital officials said soldiers shot 10-year-old Mohammad Suleiman Rubel in the occupied West Bank village of Samoa south of Hebron. They said Nasser Ibrahim Kasas, 17, was killed in the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem. An army spokesman said troops shot and killed a 20-year-old wanted by Israeli forces in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip after he allegedly attacked soldiers with a knife. The Bethlehem area has been gripped by protests since Israeli border police killed at least five Palestinians and wounded more than 15 in a bloody raid on the nearby village of Nahalin last Thursday. Palestinians said troops in Samoa also wounded four boys, aged 10 to 18, when the soldiers opened fire to disperse stonethrowing protesters. Palestinians and hospital staff reported that troops shot and



Mass curfews and increased Israeli military presence in the occupied territories have failed to dent the Palestinian uprising — the 'revolution of stones'

Probe ordered into British soccer stadium disaster amid mourning

SHEFFIELD (Agencies) — Calling it "a disaster of immense proportions," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Sunday that investigators would try to determine why 94 soccer fans were crushed to death during a match. As Thatcher inspected the scene of Britain's worst sports disaster, lawmakers called Sunday for banning the anti-riot fences that kept crowds from escaping when a crush of people crowded the soccer stadium. Thatcher visited Hillsborough Stadium, where a sunny Saturday afternoon soccer cup semifinal match turned into a nightmare of crushed bodies and fans climbing over them gasping for air. Thatcher was accompanied by Home Secretary Douglas Hurd and Sports Minister Colin Moynihan as criticism of the police mounted. She ordered a major inquiry into the disaster and added: "Whatever decisions we have to take will be taken because we cannot go through this again." Hospital spokesmen in this northern city where scores of survivors were treated for crush

injuries said 18 were in a serious condition. The disaster occurred six minutes after the start of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup semi-final between top First Division teams Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, one of the showpiece games in English soccer this season. Late-coming Liverpool supporters, who swept on to the terraces after being admitted at the last minute, thrust fans already standing there against crush barriers and a three-metre high fence erected to stop pitch invasions. Government inspectors from the health and safety executive examined the fences and crush barriers at the stadium, which Saturday trapped the fans and kept them from reaching the green playing field. Police refused to elaborate on why 4.8-metre-wide steel games were opened just as the match began. The opened gates allowed hundreds and, perhaps, thousands of additional fans to jam into the stadium. South Yorkshire's Chief Constable Peter Wright, who has taken command of one disaster inves-

tigation, said Saturday night that a senior officer had made the decision to open the gates "to save people's lives and to relieve the crush outside." He agreed that the act of opening the gates coincided with the crush on the stadium's goal-line terrace — the cheap standing-room-only area favoured by many young British soccer fans. But he added, "I am not aware of any connection between the surge on the terrace and the gate being opened." In harrowing scenes shown live on television, spectators including children were submerged in a mound of flailing people trapped by crowd barriers and unable to escape. "People were walking on other people's heads to get out from the crush," survivor Thomas Byrne said. "There was no panic, you were too close together to panic as such." The dead and injured, carried on stretchers made from advertising boards, were laid out on the pitch as play stopped although many in the ground did not realise the scope of the tragedy until later.

Most of the victims came from Liverpool grieving people thronged the city's Anglican and Roman Catholic cathedrals Sunday. Weeping youths who survived the crush placed wreaths and other mementos at the gates of the Liverpool club's stadium. Relatives of some of the dead drove to Sheffield 110 kilometres away, to see for themselves the twisted barriers and concrete terracing at Hillsborough. Local churches provided counselling services to help them cope with their grief. It was Liverpool's second tragedy in four years. The club's fans were blamed for the Heysel Stadium disaster in Belgium in 1985 in which 39 people, mostly Italians, were crushed to death at the European Cup final against Italian team Juventus. "Everyone is totally devastated," Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson said. "To see dead bodies on terraces twice in four years is unbelievable and unthinkable." He appealed for this year's F.A. Cup competition to be abandoned and for the club's coming fixtures to be suspended.

Party urges Soviets to reject nationalism, build patriotism

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Kremlin leadership, facing an upsurge of national sentiment and unrest in many of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, Sunday called on the country to reject nationalism and reinforce "Soviet patriotism." It was the first time such a call had been included among the slogans, also issued annually on the eve of the anniversary of the Nov. 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and clearly showed Kremlin worries over the situation in several republics. The slogan appeared as thousands of people carrying black flags walked in funeral processions through the streets of the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, to burial ceremonies for the last of the dead in the April 9 incident. Other funerals also attracted thousands of mourners Friday

and Saturday. The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the decision to deploy Soviet troops to break up the Tbilisi demonstrations came from politicians and was opposed by the military commander of the district. Radio Moscow also reported that 20 people, mostly women, died and more than 150 were injured in the April 9 clashes between soldiers and protesters. The official Georgian news agency Gruzininform said the death toll remained at 19, the same figure given by a Foreign Ministry spokesman last week. At a rally in Moscow, human rights activist Andrei D. Sakharov blamed the bloodshed in the southern Caucasus republic on new government restrictions on demonstrations.

Afghan rebels hit troubled waters

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — The Afghan rebel campaign, for nine years a straightforward "holy war" against a foreign, communist invader, is facing a crisis two months after the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan.

In the view of many analysts, Western diplomats and Afghan-watchers in Pakistan, the disparate Mujahadeen rebel movement is finding it hard to adapt to the new situation.

They say the Mujahadeen is losing the propaganda war with President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government in Kabul and has failed to establish its rival interim government as a credible alternative.

The movement has also failed to allay the fears of millions of Afghans in government-held cities of looting and massacre.

And, worst of all, it has failed to make good the boasts of Mujahadeen leaders that a military victory was round the corner. The stalemate battle for Jalalabad has shown that the military struggle could go on for a long time.

"The jihad has not been as successful as we thought in the beginning, despite all the weapons we had," an exiled Afghan intellectual said.

"It's very difficult to see the Mujahadeen winning the war militarily," a Western diplomat

commented.

This analysis is disputed by the seven Western-backed parties based in Pakistan. In public at least they are as confident as ever that final victory over Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is merely a matter of time.

All Mujahadeen admit, however, that the six-week-old battle for Jalalabad has been a blow to their hopes.

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The rebels scored early successes but found the switch from guerrilla tactics to conventional warfare beyond them. They have suffered heavy losses as their offensive became bogged down by minefields and bombing.

Resistance from government troops was unexpectedly tough. "There is still no unity and no discipline and a lot of good commanders have been killed," the diplomat said.

The rebels have also badly damaged their cause by their behaviour in victory. When they captured the northern provincial capital Kunduz briefly last autumn, there was widespread looting and killing of government officials.

'Uncompromising' stands

Last December guerrillas belonging to the fundamentalist

Hezb-I-Islami party gunned down 70 soldiers who had surrendered, rebel sources say. Last month 25 captives were taken forcibly from a moderate rebel group outside Jalalabad and shot dead.

These and other widely-reported incidents are the most powerful incentive for defenders to fight to the bitter end.

Exiled Afghan analyst Naim Majrooh warned in his latest monthly bulletin that looting and killing by victorious guerrillas would drive civilians into Najibullah's hands.

"There is a danger that uncompromising attitudes of the resistance will enable the Kabul regime and the Soviet invaders to achieve what they failed to do in the last 10 years — win the support of Afghanistan's urban population," he said.

Many guerrilla commanders are deeply unhappy with the way the jihad is being run. They blame Pakistani intelligence for pushing the rebels into the Jalalabad operation, a charge denied by Pakistan.

Four countries have recognised the interim government set up in February. But critics say it has yet to look a viable alternative to Najibullah's disciplined team.

The seven parties are still feuding. Two cabinet meetings were held inside Afghanistan, but ministers from one party were not even invited to the second, guerrilla sources say.

The government has yet to win

endorsement from Afghanistan's Shi'ite minority, powerful tribal leaders or exiled King Zahir Shah. Even its main supporter Pakistan has not recognised it.

Meanwhile Najibullah is waging a clever battle for the hearts and minds of the people. He portrays his government as defending the nation against Pakistani and Arab encroachment and preaches Islam, moderation and reconciliation.

Bitterness and hatred left by the killing of more than a million Afghans in the fighting run deep. But some Afghan exiles think the government's message could begin to take effect.

Officially all guerrilla commanders deny they would even contemplate doing a deal with the PDPA. But rebel sources say dozens of understandings already exist, such as agreements to let food convoys pass.

The commanders' links to the Pakistan-based parties are often tenuous and in the long term many might be persuaded to talk to Kabul, guerrilla sources say.

"Some very tough commanders are listening to Najibullah's speeches, they are following all events in Kabul," one Afghan activist said.

"The longer the other side hangs on in Kabul and other cities, the greater the perception among commanders will be that they can get a better deal from Najibullah," an Afghan aid worker said.

Afghan army seeks to help stranded convoy

KABUL (R) — The Afghan army sent tanks and other reinforcements Sunday to help free a convoy of food and fuel caught up in fierce battles with Mujahadeen guerrillas.

Drivers arriving at a checkpoint outside Kabul told Reuters they had witnessed tank and rocket duels about 30 kilometres from the Afghan capital, with at least 200 trucks stranded in the area along the hazardous Salang Highway.

They said some trucks and armoured cars were burning out of control, hit by rebels dug in along the highway feeding Kabul from the Soviet Union.

Explosions echoed off nearby hills as government tanks blasted away at guerrilla positions. Afghan helicopter gunships usually escort convoys from the Soviet Union but often fail to draw out rebels determined to starve Kabul into submission by choking off essential supplies.

Soldiers said more than 10 people, including soldiers, had been killed in two days of fighting. There was no immediate comment from the government which claimed Saturday that all the trucks had made it to Kabul.

The soldiers said at least 20 of the trucks had been hit by the Mujahadeen who have been fighting for almost 10 years to

overthrow the government of President Najibullah.

"I saw four tanks burning along the highway, some supply trucks had also been hit by the Mujahadeen," one driver said.

The first 90 trucks broke through the Mujahadeen blockade Friday, bringing much-needed supplies to the capital.

The rest of the original convoy of several hundred has been stranded since. The blockade has caused a pile-up of some 140,000 tonnes of food along the Soviet border.

The soldiers at the checkpoint told Reuters they expected the reinforced government troops to unblock the highway later Sunday.

Some diplomats estimated the number in the original convoy at 700 and it was not clear how many of the trucks had been set on fire during their journey from the Soviet border.

The Salang Highway running north to the Soviet Union passes through mountainous terrain, making it a safe haven for the rebels to rocket the trucks.

"The rebels have reduced to a trickle the essential supplies reaching Kabul over land, forcing the government to rely on a Soviet airlift to prevent starvation and enable its troops to battle the Mujahadeen."

Egypt condemns Israeli measures

CAIRO (AP) — Senior Egyptian officials Sunday criticised Israeli measures against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and asked Israel to respond to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) offer of peace.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid told reporters Egypt wants to see a "positive Israeli response to efforts which have gained international support, especially after the PLO has adopted a reasonable and constructive stand."

He said he also relayed to Reuven Merhav, director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry, that Egypt "deeply regretted the brutal Israeli measures in the occupied territories, especially the village of Nahalin."

Abdul Meguid was referring to a pre-dawn border police raid of the West Bank village of Nahalin in which at least five Palestinians were shot dead Thursday.

Merhav arrived in Cairo Thursday for talks focusing on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal for Israeli-run elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to choose Palestinians for "autonomy" negotiations.

Meanwhile, Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also called on Israel to "accept the will of the international community and to respond to the hand of peace extended by the PLO."

"Egypt reiterates its support of the Palestinian hero in his struggle for self-determination."

Ghali was speaking on the occasion of the "day of mass rage," declared by Palestinians on the first anniversary Sunday of the assassination of the PLO's deputy military commander, Khalil Al Wazir.

Following his meeting with Abdul Meguid, Reuven reiterated to reporters his country's refusal to talk to the PLO and called for elections among Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"The PLO is not a partner in negotiations. It is for us a terrorist organisation."

"We want to have talks with the people most concerned, people in the territories itself, and by elections they can choose representatives among themselves."

Old soldiers come to the fore in Egypt

By Sara Al Gammal
Reuters

CAIRO — Egyptian Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, appointed presidential assistant Saturday, has long been viewed as the second most powerful man in the country.

He has won respect and power as defence minister by re-equipping and restructuring the armed forces, and turning the 450,000-strong military into a high-tech deterrent.

His successor as defence minister is Cairo Governor Yousef Abu Taleb, an approachable professional soldier with a love for trees and clean city streets.

President Hosni Mubarak's

surprise appointment of Abu Ghazala as his assistant fell short of making the 59-year-old war veteran and military reformer his vice-president.

Egyptian analysts say it may be some time before the full implications of the appointments become clear.

An eloquent man who speaks fluent English, French and Russian, Abu Ghazala is a veteran of three wars against Israel and in peacetime mobilised Egypt's armed forces against a new enemy, economic stagnation.

Increasing Egypt's military production has been one of Abu Ghazala's main targets. He has tried to build a local arms industry able to compete in the world market and pro-

vide the Arab World with defence needs.

In the Gulf war, Egypt became one of Iraq's main weapons and ammunition suppliers and has provided Arab states with political support and military advice.

Born in the Nile Delta village of Kafr Al Omara Jan. 18, 1930, Abu Ghazala is one of several Egyptian soldiers whose military record has propelled him upward in the political hierarchy.

He graduated from Egypt's War Academy in 1949, a year after Abu Taleb did. Trained in the U.S. and Moscow's Stalinist Academy, Abu Ghazala grasped new technology and commanded an artillery bri-

gade in his 30s.

He became chief of military intelligence in 1974 and military attaché in Washington two years later. He has been heavily criticised by the left for his close ties with the West, particularly the United States.

In the mid-1970s Abu Ghazala worked under Abu Taleb who was then chief of artillery for the military, according to Talaat Mouslem, an analyst at Al Ahran Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

After returning from Washington, Abu Ghazala became chief of staff with the rank of field marshal in 1980 and defence minister the following year after the death of the incumbent, Ahmad Badawi, in an air crash.

Abu Taleb, a tall grey-haired man, was appointed assistant defence minister in 1980 before becoming the first governor of north Sinai, returned to Egypt from Israel in 1982.

In 1983, he was appointed Cairo's governor and is popular for his campaign to clean up the city and solve its traffic problems.

"He is a very good organiser with a calm attitude... he has a very calm tone and a reasonable and rational approach," said Makram Mohammad Ahmad, editor of the political review Al-Mussawwar.

"It would take a miracle to do something in this terrible city and he has managed it," Ahmad said.



Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala

Deputies urge Khomeini to amend constitution

NICOSIA (R) — More than 130 Iranian members of parliament have urged supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to amend constitutional provisions covering the future leadership, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Sunday.

Khomeini, 86, sacked his successor-designate, Ayatollah Hosein Ali Montazeri, late last month. Political analysts said then that the constitution made it possible the future leadership would not be clearly settled in Khomeini's lifetime.

IRNA said the members of parliament urged Khomeini in a letter to set up a commission to draft constitutional amendments.

They also called for changes in articles covering the judiciary and the organisational structure of the government's executive branch.

The deputies, IRNA reported, "said the text of the constitution in the said areas has some major flaws which would have to be amended or else the normal operation of state affairs would be badly suffered."

Calling for a referendum on the changes, they noted that the need to amend the constitution "has been felt by every person involved with the various aspects of the administration of state affairs during the past 10 years."

Under the constitution the 83-seat assembly of experts, which chose Montazeri in 1985, can elect a three- or five-man leadership council if it finds no single successor to Khomeini.

IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said one deputy hailed Montazeri's resignation as "in the interest of the system"

Djibouti limps back to normal after floods

DJIBOUTI (R) — Djibouti is continuing its week-old state of emergency following flash floods which killed eight people but diplomats and aid officials expect the country will escape a major outbreak of disease.

"According to officials from the government, it seems they don't believe there will be any serious outbreak of disease," a senior U.N. official said Saturday.

Official statements had indicated that up to 150,000 people were affected by the floods, caused by a four-day downpour which ended last Sunday.

The U.N. official said no more than 20,000 people had to be moved from their homes, to relatives, public buildings and tents set up near the outskirts of the city. He said many of these had returned home by Friday.

"It seems the situation is about back to normal," said a second official. "Give it another two

weeks."

Teams of French military and the local fire brigade continued draining water from densely-populated areas in a central city shantytown with pumps flown in from France.

Residents, wading ankle-deep in water, used pails to bail water out of shacks built from corrugated iron and wood. Some residents said they feared an outbreak of malaria unless the water-logged area was cleared soon.

France, which maintains a significant military presence in Djibouti, sent 21 experts to supervise the cleanup.

The U.N. official said he expected work would probably now shift to preparing damaged dwelling and providing adequate sanitation.

A Western diplomat, who also said he believed an outbreak of disease could be avoided, said France and West Germany were sending in extra medical supplies.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli held for false claim

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli police Sunday extended the detention of a freelance reporter for Israel's armed forces radio on suspicion he fabricated a Palestinian claim of a hotel fire to inflame anti-Arab sentiments, a spokesman said. The reporter, Meir Suissa, 26, of the southern resort city of Eilat, has also been suspended from his job since Friday pending the end of legal proceedings, army radio commander Nachman Shai said. "This is a sad incident, although we still have no proof the fire was real," Shai said in an interview. Suissa has reportedly worked for the station for about a year. The fire that broke out Friday in a multi-story building at Eilat's Lagoon hotel slightly injured one person and caused minor damage. If charged, Suissa may face a maximum three-year prison term, police said. Suissa was arrested Friday and is also questioned on suspicion of setting the fire, he added. The reporter admitted to scribbling a claim in Hebrew and with a yellow magic marker on a man's room mirror near the fire. "The fire is our intifada gift from the Arabs of Eilat," the claim said, according to police. Suissa later broadcast news of the fire and the false claim in a radio interview. "He said he did this because he wanted a scoop and to make noise," police said. The Yediot Ahronot daily said Suissa told police his motive was "I hate Arabs."

Libya accuses Baker of hostility

ROME (AP) — The official Libyan news agency JANA Saturday assailed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for criticising Libya's acquisition of Soviet bombers. JANA's political editor stated in a dispatch monitored in Rome that Libya was "astounded" at the criticism. "If Baker deplores the possession by Jamahiriya (Libya) of some equipment it needs to exercise its self-defence, how does he justify his government's supply of (A) very advanced arsenal of military equipment to the Zionist enemy, used in attacking the Palestinian Arab people and disturbing the stability of the whole region...?" the editor asked. U.S. officials have said that the Soviets have supplied Libya with 10-15 Sukhoi fighter-bombers capable of threatening Israel. But Soviet officials have said no more than six planes were supplied, and that they were defensive aircraft. "Libya has, beyond any doubt, reassessed its clear stance rejecting all forms and types of terrorism and the world public opinion became convinced and totally aware of the stances of Libya and no longer believes such fabricated accusations promoted by the hostile forces either through their statements or leaked reports," the JANA dispatch said.

9 drug smugglers hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Nine drug smugglers were hanged Saturday in three provincial cities, Tehran Radio reported. The report, monitored in Nicosia, said police had seized a total of 931 kilos of opium, more than 23 kilos of opium essence and 10 kilos of heroin from the mine. Iranian authorities have embarked on a wide anti-narcotics campaign, arresting hundreds of people allegedly involved in traffic of use of drugs. Most of the arrests have been made in areas close to the border with Afghanistan and Pakistan. The hangings Saturday brought the number of executions to 388 since Jan. 21, when a new law took effect mandating the death sentence for anyone caught possessing even small quantities of narcotics. Officials have said about one million Iranians are believed involved in drug abuse. Saturday's radio report also said that 10 more drug smugglers had been arrested and 85 kilos of narcotics as well as small arms seized.

Rome, Tehran envoys return to posts

ROME (R) — Italy and Iran have reestablished normal diplomatic relations after withdrawing their ambassadors in a dispute over an Iranian call for the death of British author Salman Rushdie. An Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday that IRNA's ambassador to Rome, Hamid Aby Talebi, returned Monday. Italy was the first European Community (EC) country with which Tehran had mended diplomatic links since the Rushdie affair, he added. Italy's ambassador to Iran, Vittorio Amedeo Farinelli, took up his post in Tehran again at the end of March, the spokesman said. Italy recalled Farinelli in line with an EC decision in February to withdraw top envoys from Iran following an edict by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that Rushdie should be killed for writing the novel "The Satanic Verses." Iran responded in kind. The EC decided March 20 that any member country wishing to send its envoys back to Tehran could do so.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:10 Children of the World
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 World News
18:20 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:35 Programme review
21:45 Monday Forum
22:20 Variety Show
22:40 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Variety show (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:10 Thirty Something
22:00 News in English
22:20 Jack and Mike

PRAYER TIMES

05:30 Fajr
05:31 Sunrise
11:35 Dhuhr
15:12 Asr
18:10 Maghrib

CHURCHES

1931 'tala

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 310740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674401
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822405
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 811817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A gradual drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker 746426
Dr. Issam Abu Riza 681967
Dr. Ali As'ad 897919
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Yasoub pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 632672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yasoub pharmacy 644945
Shumoon pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 6220993
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 6563091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 625880
Price Complaints 656175
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 412
Overseas Calls 47
Central Amman Telephone

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Mussein Medical Centre 81813/32
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shumoon 66417/4
Shumoon Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66027/77
AEAH, Abdali 66416/46
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77710/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ahrasfeh 77511/26
Army, Marika 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:10 Agaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:10 Sana'a (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:50 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:55 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Brussels, Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Jeddah (RJ)
19:45 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
09:10 Frankfurt (LH)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
13:20 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah (GF)
13:30 Baghdad (IA)
16:35 Kuwait (KU)
18:10 Baghdad (AF)
06:15 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upsetter price in Jds per kg.

Almond 600 / 500
Apple 500 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 350 / 300
Beans 350 / 300
Broad beans 120 / 100
Cabbage 90 / 60
Carrot 180 / 120
Cauliflower 220 / 150
Cucumbers 470 / 400
Eggplant 250 / 200
Garlic 300 / 250
Lemon 100 / 70
Lettuce (per one) 350 / 250
Marrow (large) 100 / 70
Marrow (small) 100 / 70
Orange (Shamouti) 380 / 300
Orange (local) 350 / 250
Onion (dry) 120 / 100
Onion (green) 120 / 100
Pepper (hot) 320 / 280
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 200
Potato 150 / 120
Spinach 240 / 200
Strawberry 1400 / 1000
Tomatoes 500 / 400

VTC extends facilities to graduates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has finalised arrangements for providing training in different trades for graduates of Yarmouk University, and it hopes that the practice will be copied by community colleges and other universities in Jordan, according to VTC Director General Burhan Shreideh.

In a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab daily Saturday, Shreideh said that the step is being taken by the VTC to enable graduates to find suitable jobs in their own specialisations or other trades alike.

The VTC has already embarked on providing training to members of families under "family cooperatives" programme designed to help the bread winner of the family earn additional income, Shreideh noted. He said that the practice, which is followed in many countries around the world, entails training family members to sew shirts, do knit wear, do maintenance work on small equipment and machines.

Referring to the VTC's other operations, Shreideh noted that the corporation now operates 11 vocational training centres for young men and five for women spread across the country. The VTC which commenced operations in 1977, has carried out three year and five year development programmes to provide training to thousands of young men and women in different trades, badly needed in the local and Arab labour markets.

From 311 trainees in 1977 the number of young men and women under training rose to 11,501 in 1988, Shreideh pointed out. He said that the current 1988-1990 five year plan entails programmes for training 30,000 people either as apprentices or full-fledged vocational trainees over periods ranging from three months to three years.

Not only normal trainees benefit from the VTC services, but also the handicapped men and women are offered special vocational training courses to help them earn their own living.

Shreideh added. Shreideh said that the VTC intends to help the centres' graduates to find employment after graduation, and has plans for expanding training for girls and to set up centres which can produce different articles for sale in the local market.

He said that seminars are being held periodically and visits to schools made in cooperation with the Ministry of Education to encourage students to enrol at the vocational centres.

Referring to cooperation with Arab states, Shreideh noted that the VTC has signed a \$200,000 agreement to help South Yemen to commence vocational training programmes and has carried out similar programmes in Bahrain, North Yemen and Libya. The VTC has already dispatched instructors to these countries to help them carry out vocational training programmes, and it is hoped that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will open the way for further inter-Arab cooperation in this respect.



RSCN President Anis Muasher (centre) presents RJ Chairman Ali Ghandour with the society shield. On the right is the society's member Mrs. Leila Sharaf (Petra photo).

RSCN honours RJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Sunday demonstrated its appreciation of Royal Jordanian (RJ) for its endeavours to enable the society repatriate the Arabian oryx and other animals threatened with extinction.

The RSCN President Anis Muasher presented RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali

Ghandour with the society's shield. Muasher said that the shield was presented on RJ's 25th anniversary and in expression of appreciation of the airline's endeavours to assist the society in its contribution to preserve wildlife in the Kingdom.

The RSCN is now in charge of seven wildlife reserves which had been established in the country to protect plants and animals and

prevent their extinction, according to a society report earlier this month. The society owns 50 heads of oryx at the Shomari Wildlife Reserve near Azraq oasis which was established in 1975.

Earlier this month the society said it was preparing a 13-part television programme on the environment in Jordan in cooperation with the Jordan Television and local writers in a bid to promote a drive for protecting the Jordanian environment and reducing pollution in the country.

The RSCN also reported that it was establishing a wildlife museum in Jordan in a bid to focus public attention on the need to protect and preserve all types of animals and highlight the country's natural history.

Jordan, Egypt plan power grid link

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Egyptian Electricity Corporation have finalised a feasibility study on linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan via Sinai, according to a JEA announcement here Sunday. The announcement said that the two countries have entrusted a French consultancy firm, "Electricite de France," to carry out studies on the project which would cost \$170 million and takes four years to be carried out after approval by the two governments.

The project entails laying an overhead 400-kilovolt line along 10 kilometres from the thermal power station at Agaba to the Agaba coast, a 12-kilometre submarine cable between Agaba coast and Sinai and a 290 kilometre 500-kilovolt line across the Sinai desert to Egypt, according to the statement.

The linkage with Egypt, the JEA statement said will help the two sides deal with emergency power, shortages and benefit from low-cost power produced by either side.

Official JEA statistics indicate that Jordan's overall power consumption is currently 500 megawatts but that overall production capacity, when all stations are operational, is expected to be 900 megawatts.

The linkage, approved by the joint Jordanian Egyptian Higher Committee in 1986 could pave the way for linking the grids in the North African Arab countries with the those in Asia, according to the statement.

Jordan's grid was connected with Syria's in 1981.

16 drug traffickers sentenced

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 16 people including four Syrian nationals have received sentences up to 15 years in jail and the payment of up to JD 20,000 for importing or trafficking with drugs, according to a statement by the military court Sunday.

The statement said that the convicted were found to have imported or tried to peddle hashish, heroin and captagon pills. The military governor, the statement said, has endorsed the sentences.

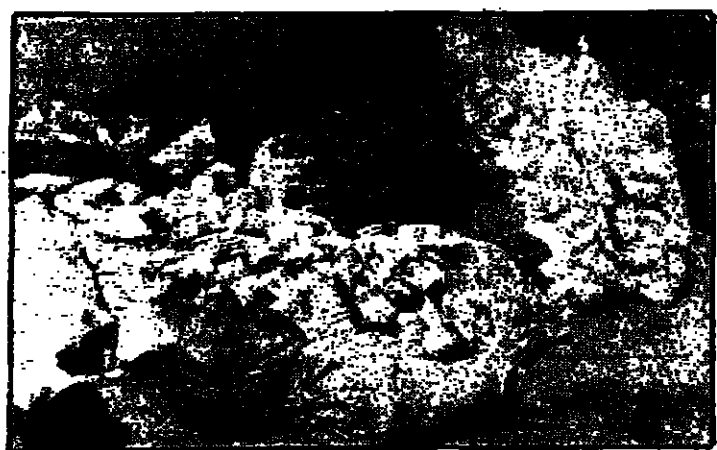
Last month the Public Security Department (PSD) announced that it had broken up the biggest drug smuggling operation in Jordan's history, seizing two and a half tonnes of hashish, 300,000 captagon pills with a total street value of JD 2 million.

The PSD said that those involved in the trafficking operations included 12 Saudis, 25 Syrians and eight Jordanians. The statement said that according to the PSD, arrests were made in the first two months of 1989.

It said that the amount of drugs seized in the first two months of 1989 was double that seized in the same period of 1988, and attributed the rise to a surplus of hashish and declining prices in producing countries, high demand and soaring prices in consuming countries and the increasing number of drug traffickers

due to the prevailing economic and security climate in some of the countries in the region.

It said that Jordan, which is not a large consumer of drugs, serves as a transit ground for the traffickers in view of its central geographic location within the Arab World.



File photo of drugs seized by PSD in 1987

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROADS: The Public Works Department in Mafrq Governorate has awarded a tender to a local company to improve the Manshieh road at a total cost of JD25,000. Work on the project is expected to start in the coming week (Petra).

WATER PIPES: The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Sunday announced that its teams have completed a number of water networks in the Tafleeh district replacing the old pipes with new ones. A WAJ spokesman said that the project cost JD 50,000 (Petra).

TRAINING: The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has made plans to carry out 133 training programmes for its employees during 1989. A JEA official said that the training programmes covering technical, financial and administrative affairs will be held at the authority's training centre in Amman (Petra).

ARCHAEOLOGY: A team from the British Institute for Archaeology and History has started excavations at Khirbet Fares in Al Qasr district. The area dates back to the Byzantine, Roman and Iron Ages. The two month excavation is part of the Department of Antiquities plan to explore archaeological sites in various parts of the Kingdom (Petra).

FOR THE DEAF: The Ministry of Education's counselling and mental health department will start broadcasting television programmes for the deaf, by using the sign language, as of this week (Petra).

MUNICIPALITIES: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud has endorsed the JD 153,851 budget of South Mazar Municipality in Karak Governorate. Hmoud also decided to form a special committee to study the tenders offered by the local councils to contractors to carry out services and development projects (Petra).

TEACHER TRAINING: A three day training programme for developing teachers' performance was held at Yarmouk University Sunday. The programme is aimed at briefing teachers at the faculty of arts on new methods of education (Petra).

CONSTRUCTION: Ramtha municipality has awarded a local company a JD 50,000 tender for the construction of the final stage of the Ramtha sports stadium. This stage entails installing water and sewerage facilities along other essential works (J.T.).

Crossing River Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday announced a programme for travel across the Jordan River bridges to and from the occupied territories. According to the programme, the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges will be open on Wednesday April 19, 1989 until 10 a.m. and will be closed completely on the following day April 20.

The two bridges will open normally on Tuesday April 25, until 10 a.m. only and remain closed on the following day, the statement said. It said that traffic across the bridges on other days in between will remain normal.

The statement gave no reason for the new arrangements. Shami also announced that the

Transport fares next
Prices revised

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications announced Sunday that it will conduct a comprehensive revision of the current rates of transport fares in the light of Saturday's announcement of the increases in fuel prices.

A study of the cost of transport has become necessary now in view of the fuel prices which were among other things increased by a cabinet decision announced late Saturday night, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan said.

According to the cabinet statement, the prices of fuel, soft and alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and natural mineral water were increased, and there will be increased also on the rates of registering and licensing of vehicles and of telephone bills.

The prices were readjusted in accordance with recommendations made to the government by a special committee revising the country's financial, planning, commercial, industrial and supply policies, and in an attempt to redress the deficit in the budget, increases revenues for the treasury and control spending, according to cabinet statement published in the local press Sunday.

Petrol

According to the new measures which take immediate effect, the price of fuel will be as follows: a gas cylinder will be sold for JD 2 up from JD 1.8, a litre of super petrol will be sold for 270 fils up from 210 fils, a litre of regular petrol will be sold for 220 fils up from 180 fils, jet fuel, 80 fils a litre up from 65 fils, diesel oil and kerosene, 75 fils a litre up from 65 fils, asphalt, JD 60 per tonne up from JD 50.

With regard to drinks the fol-

lowing rates will be in force: Locally produced alcoholic drinks will go up by 40 per cent while imported foreign drinks will be hiked by 50 per cent; detergents will sell at JD 150 up from JD 120 per tonne.

Foreign cigarettes

Malboro, 850 fils up from 680 fils; Kent, 750 fils up from 610 fils; Silk Cut, 750 fils up from 610 fils; Rothmans 800 fils up from 630 fils; Gold Ring 800 fils up from 640 fils; Barclay 800 fils up from 640 fils.

Local cigarettes

Kamal 290 fils; Reem Extra 360 fils; Gold Star 420 fils; Philadelphia 80 milligrammes 440 fils; Philadelphia 85 milligrammes 440 fils; Philadelphia 100 milligrammes 490 fils; Nassim 440 fils; Top Twenty 490 fils.

Soft drinks

Aerated water to sell for 130 fils per litre up from 110 fils for reusable containers and 135 fils from 115 fils for disposable containers. Natural mineral water from 110 fils to 135 fils per litre for reusable metal containers and from 115 fils to 135 fils a litre for disposable containers.

The cabinet also decided that fees on television be added, but did not specify the amount and said that a 10 per cent increase will be added to the telephone bills and telephone annual subscription.

The cabinet statement said that there will be an increase in the fees imposed on registering and licensing vehicles of all types and that a list of the new rates will follow.

SDC board meets, reviews projects progress

SALT (Petra) — The work and achievements of the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) were reviewed at a meeting here by the corporation's board meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Jaafar Al Shami the corporation's director general and board chairman.

Shami announced that the corporation's cultural centre has been completed at the cost of JD 1.5 million and will be officially opened in the coming month. The SDC, he said, is now setting up gardens and green areas around the cultural centre at the cost of JD 10,000.

The cultural centre is a complex built through contributions from Salt and Kuwaitis and includes a mosque, a public library, a craft training centre, a carpark and a multi purpose hall, Shami told the meeting.

SDC was going ahead with a plan to restore old archaeological buildings in Salt with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

USAID will provide the bulk of the cost of a feasibility study and restoration work for the project estimated at JD 49,500, according to Shami, who said that the old buildings in question are located in the town centre and form a good attraction for tourists and visitors.

Shami noted that contacts are underway with the Ministry of Education to supply the cultural centre with qualified teachers.

Shami said that JD 156,000 have been spent on the pilot school and the SDC has donated JD 7,100 to Salt municipality to help it carry out municipal projects and JD 1,500 to the sports club.

Despite nightmare, Ahlam holds to her dreams

By Najwa Najjar and Rania Atalla

Jordan Times Staff Reporters AMMAN — Ahlam's nightmare started when the 24-year-old girl from the village of Ya'bad near Jenin in the Israeli-occupied territories, was participating in a march to commemorate the martyrdom of one of her fellow villagers.

"The situation in Ya'bad was so tense that the Israeli occupation army could not enter the village," Ahlam, whose name literally translates into "dreams," recalled from her hospital bed in Amman. "A helicopter started throwing tear gas bombs on to the 8,000 or so peaceful demonstrators.

One of the bomb landed close to Ahlam. She attempted to kick the bomb away from her, but within one minute she lost consciousness from tear gas inhalation.

The immediate effect of her exposure to the gas caused a burning feeling in her face, her eyes were constantly tearful and

her stomach ached, she recalls. Ahlam suffered from that condition for a whole month, until more serious symptoms started appearing. Her arm muscles became stiff and ached as red patches appeared on her skin, turning in stages to dark brown and then to black, after that, painful blisters developed all over those patches.

Today, 14 months later, Ahlam is still suffering from the painful symptoms which continuously appear in various places of her upper body. Additional patches have appeared since she was admitted to Amman's Palestine Hospital on January 25 — patches which she says are painful and itchy. One side of her face is still slightly swollen even though she has been given treatment to reduce the swelling.

A team of doctors supervising Ahlam at the Palestine Hospital say that since they do not know what chemical substance tear gas is made out of, they cannot prove that her symptoms are a result of the inhalation of tear gas. But



Ahlam shows her inflamed arm at Palestine Hospital last week.

neither can they disprove it: In any case, they cannot help but link her symptoms with the February 1988 event.

Deep infection

A biopsy carried out in a local laboratory indicated that Ahlam suffers from infections under the skin as deep as the blood vessels and muscles. Ulceration have developed on her skin due to the decreased blood supply in the affected areas.

Dr. Ziad Kayyali, a plastic and reconstructive surgery specialist who is directly supervising Ahlam, said although laboratories in Jordan do not have the facilities to determine the substance that causes Ahlam's symptoms, he "strongly suspected" that chemical substances caused

the harmful change in Ahlam's skin tissue.

"It is definitely not a skin disease," he said. "There is a 90 per cent possibility that chemical substances caused this phenomenon." Still, he said, Ahlam's symptoms are simple compared to what she may develop in the future. Doctors have told her she is likely to develop complications in any of her organs related to the central nervous system, she says. For the time being however, her eyes and skin continues to hurt.

Ahlam's is the first case doctors in Jordan have come across. A skin specialist, Dr. Umesh Umesh, said medical reports have indicated that inhaled gas can be absorbed systematically causing damage to skin and

muscles of the body.

Another skin specialist involved in the case, Dr. Wajdi Kan'an, pointed out that symptoms such as Ahlam's which appear due to a disease, are usually seen only in the lower limbs, and not as in Ahlam's case, in the arms or upper body.

Kan'an said only countries which produce tear gas would be in a position to prove that what Ahlam is suffering from is inhalation of poisonous chemicals since they would know what the chemicals contain and would therefore have the antidote for her treatment.

Ahlam is one of the few victims of Israeli oppression fortunate enough to have gotten treatment abroad. She is convinced that

Israeli occupation authorities would not have allowed her to cross the bridge if they had known she would be treated here. She is scheduled to fly to France this week to receive advanced treatment. But until she does, she continues to develop more and more painful symptoms on her body.

Ahlam seemed to tolerate her suffering quite well. She did not mind the pain and discomfort because she believes that it is the price for liberation.

"Our soul"

"This is our country, our soul," she said in reference to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "No one would ever give it up. I would not sell a single clod of its earth, not for anything in the whole world."

The intifada, she says, is the "winning card" in the hands of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. "It allowed us a chance to express ourselves, whenever we throw a stone," we are expressing our grievances against occupation.

In her conviction, the intifada erupted as a reaction to 20 years of occupation — "twenty hard years of humiliation, oppression, and suppression."

"If you keep blowing it, a balloon is bound to burst. This is exactly what happened to a people who were subjected to daily beatings, humiliation, and degradation," she asserted. "The Israeli occupation forces may, in fact, be doing us a favour. Every time they hit us, they make us stronger."

One of Ahlam's six brothers was badly beaten by Israeli soldiers. Another was wounded in the leg by a bullet. But, she says, neither what happened to her nor what happened to her brothers will stop her. "My morale is higher than ever, and for me, the barrier of fear has been shattered. Our lives under occupation will end either in death or in liberation."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.

RAMADAN SOUQ

★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.

LECTURE

★ A lecture entitled "The Bible and History: the Origins of State" by Jean-Michel de Tarragon at the French Cultural Centre - 5:00 p.m.

FILM

★ A French film entitled "La Belle Equipe" at the French Cultural Centre - 8:30 p.m.

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Jordan Times

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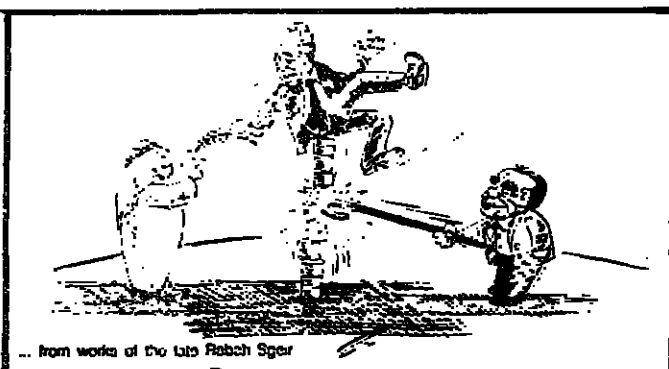
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Jordan Times Advertising Department.

The only hope for Lebanon

WITH the principal antagonists in Lebanon divided as ever on how to defuse the recent escalation in the fighting in the country and the international community also getting confused and bewildered on how to resolve the 15 years old conflict, the only remaining common denominator on which all parties within and without Lebanon seem to agree is to give the Arab League's reconciliation committee all the support necessary to enable it to carry out its mandate. This Arab League committee is painstakingly and step by step working on a formula to settle the Lebanese crisis from its roots and in all its dimensions. Surely a formidable problem of the size of the Lebanese dilemma cannot be expected to be settled overnight. Much work has still to be done. Equally important is that such Arab efforts need to be done quietly, confidentially and away from the limelight in order to give the various factions in Lebanon appropriate opportunities to negotiate with one another through the Arab League committee in the most earnest possible way. Luckily there is a growing consensus regionally and internationally that the Arab League efforts offer Lebanon and the Lebanese people their best chance to put an end to their sufferings. Every effort must therefore be made by all parties to the Lebanese conflict to give the ongoing Arab League attempts to bring the Lebanese drama to peaceful and reasonable resolution a real chance to succeed. There is no way for the Arab League to accomplish the mandate of the ministerial committee without affecting an immediate halt to the indiscriminate shelling that is still going on in Lebanon.

It pains every human being on Earth not to mention the Arab Nation to see endless killing and destruction continue in Lebanon. In this vein, the deployment of an inter-Arab force to monitor the armed conflict in Lebanon would be the only sensible thing left to do now. If there is ever an opportune time and environment for the resort to an inter-Arab force to assure the stopping of blood letting in Lebanon it is now. The Arab World must demonstrate to Lebanon its real devotion and commitment to its return to normalcy in accordance with the Arab League charter and by the most operational way — the deployment of an Arab peace-keeping force. The reputation of the Arab League system is now at stake and how it goes about ending the armed and political conflict in Lebanon would determine its relevancy within and without the Arab World. The eyes of the whole world are therefore set on the Arab League ministerial committee and on its recommendations to put an end to the cycle of the fighting between fellow Lebanese people.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper praised the government's measures designed to bolster the national economy and said that the decision to raise the price of non-essential materials was a step in the right direction. The paper said that the boosting of the economy is a national responsibility and the Jordanian citizens must shoulder their share and contribute towards executing a five year economic programme which will reduce the deficit in the budget and increase domestic revenues. Reducing expenses and rationalising consumption are bound to lead to further savings which are needed to pay off the debts and maintain the momentum of socio-economic development in Jordan, the paper added. It said that the execution of economic programme as backed and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund will help stabilise the Jordanian currency and achieve further economic growth reaching up to four per cent. For its part, the government will now embark on implementing the economic programme which would not only save funds needed for development but will open the way for further investments and subsequent additional income.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday discusses the work of the Arab League mediation team which is trying to put an end to the civil strife in Lebanon. We wonder how this mediation team will be able to end the conflict in Lebanon since the Lebanese people themselves have lost their control over their own affairs, says Tareq Masarweh. The Lebanese militias, the writer adds, have become tools in the hands of bigger powers and the battlefields in Beirut are no more than stages for their acting. The meetings in Kuwait with the representatives of the different parties, and the decision whether to add one member to parliament or not, can by no means end the sufferings of the Lebanese people. The only solution, the writer says, is to hold talks with the bigger powers which are exploiting the Lebanese people and perpetuating the sufferings of the innocent people.

Al Duston daily commented on the current flurry in Arab diplomatic activities on the eve of King Hussein's travel to Washington for talks on the Middle East issue with President Bush and the American administration. The paper said Amman has been visited by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for coordination of stands vis-a-vis the Palestine question and other national issues. It said that the visits by the two Arab leaders here can be interpreted as a means to boost the Arab Nation's stand and to add their efforts to those of the King who is spearheading the endeavours to achieve peace.

Weekly Political Pulse

Inching towards elections?

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election formula for the West Bank and Gaza Strip appears to be gaining currency amid reports that Washington is leaning heavily in favour of endorsing it because it allegedly contains the seeds for a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. Newsreports, meanwhile, suggest that Palestinian and Arab rejection of the idea is slowly eroding. All these developments are taking place when little thus far has been released about the salient features of the election scheme.

It must also be remembered that the election idea per se came in the midst of a multi-faceted "peace" plan that Shamir took with him to Washington last week. Accordingly the presentation of the principle of the ballot in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was never highlighted as the centrist theme in the Shamir plan. The other points mentioned in the Israeli proposal touched upon the sacrosanctity of the Camp David Accords, the need to resolve the Palestinian refugee problem and the overall Arab-Israeli relations. Thus, as I see the election component of the Shamir initiative, it is only a part of a comprehensive package deal featuring complimentary components from the Israeli point of view. What amazes me therefore is why all the fuss about one part of an Israeli "peace recommendation" when all the other parts,

which are just as contentious and substantive, have escaped Arab and international attention.

As for the idea of settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through ballots rather than bullets, it appears that what Shamir has in mind is that any such elections would produce a Palestinian delegation which will negotiate an interim settlement in which a self-governing administration will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shamir also offered a tempting bait which says that there could be negotiations after the viability of the interim settlement has been substantiated which would address the issue of the final settlement for the occupied territories on a basis which would not exclude any option. However the willingness of Shamir to discuss any option as basis for a final settlement was not left to rest in peace by Shamir for with the same breath he made it emphatically clear that his country cannot relinquish control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip because such withdrawal would lead to a "PLO state" on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and that in his estimation that would constitute a mortal danger to Israel.

The immediate question that comes to the fore is which of Shamir's statements one should believe: the one suggesting that before long there will be negotiations on the permanent status of

the Arab territories, in which all options would be considered, or the one that refers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Judea and Samaria from which Israel cannot withdraw? To me such a question and better still the answer to such a question is more fundamental than whether the Arab side should welcome the election proposal or reject it. Instead, the rhetoric on the election idea is moving in the direction of whether to accept elections among the Palestinians conditionally or to reject them unconditionally. As Nabil Shaath, political adviser to President Yasser Arafat has commented before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington Thursday, "the idea of elections is absolutely desirable, absolutely exhilarating to Palestinians. But then one has to put these elections in their proper perspective. Free elections require an end to occupation."

But if in the final analysis there are elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under appropriate conditions there would be no way to put the genie back in the jar. The ripples and after-effects of such an exercise of free and democratic elections would snowball to infinite proportions and there is no telling where they will all lead the Palestinian side. However one thing is sure. The result of any such elections under suitable conditions would be the surest civil way to undermine Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories.

Eagleburger: Step-by-step in the Mideast

Following is the text of remarks made by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger April 13 to the United Jewish Appeal (UJA).

WHAT I want to talk about very briefly this afternoon is the Middle East — just to give you a little outline of where we stand in the aftermath of the Shamir and Mubarak visits. But before I talk briefly about the visits themselves, I need, I think, give you a little sense of sort of where we're coming from on the general problem of the Middle East peace process.

There are really three factors that have guided the President and Secretary Baker when they began to try to deal with this far intractable problem: the first is I think obvious to everybody. The situation in the region is not one that will get better by itself. It's not a situation if left to itself, will improve. Therefore, we have to be active. But at the same time we do believe that there are opportunities which may have changed Israeli and Palestinian thinking enough that they are worth exploring.

Second, the environment in the region, will not sustain a negotiation now in our judgment, or a high visibility initiative by any outside party including the United States. The formal gaps between the parties are still too large, and suspicions are still too entrenched.

Third, mechanisms like an international conference — at this

time — may distract from the choices they have to make to implement the workable process. Focusing on the conference as the principal point of attention at this point, would in our judgment be counterproductive. That is not to say that a conference at some time may not be possible, but it is not something that we believe ought to be the first event — or close to the first event — in the peace process.

What we believe is required now is an effort to break down the walls of mistrust and the barriers to accommodation between the parties. There must be actions on the ground to defuse the tensions and to replace the dialogue of violence with political discourse. These steps must be taken by Israelis and Palestinians in order to alter the climate. These steps cannot be taken in a vacuum. Steps on the ground must be based on a political process that paves the way for negotiations on interim arrangements for final status.

It is our view that the key principles of these negotiations must be the achievement of Israeli security, Palestinian political rights and a comprehensive peace through negotiations based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is within this framework that we are evaluating, looking at, studying the consequences of the visits by Mubarak and Shamir.

Our general judgment is that we are encouraged by what has happened so far, though I would

also caution you, and it should be fairly obvious, that we are again dealing with small steps.

President Mubarak clearly understands our approach, particularly the need to change the atmosphere before workable negotiations can be launched. He left here agreed not to prejudice the idea of elections and to see whether it could be used to launch a peace process.

Prime Minister Shamir came with an encouraging elections proposal that could provide a basis for moving ahead. The Prime Minister's proposal went beyond Camp David — that is, elections before an agreement on transitional arrangements — not after — and that's a major step forward and we need to recognise it as such. He also used a new formulation: elections to quote, "launch a negotiating process," unquote, which suggests his understanding of the need to satisfy Palestinian political aspirations within some context.

He talked of negotiations that would try to accommodate Israeli and Palestinian needs. Now, much remains to be done. We need to work to flesh out the details of how we get to elections — and we — that is still substantial work to be done. How we get to the elections, what the elections themselves would be like, and most important of all, their link to a final status negotiation.

The fact is, that elections are an intensely political act surrounded by a great deal of politi-

cal activity that would give both Palestinians and Israelis a new way to begin to deal with each other.

This is a challenge in the period ahead. Moving intensively on an — and I emphasise — a step by step process aimed at two things: to work through with the Israelis the issues related to Shamir's elections proposal, and to work with the Arab world to see how we might transform the situation and build on the elections idea in a way that makes progress possible.

Let me end by saying a word about the PLO. We are not trying to mediate between Israel and the PLO. We do have our own dialogue with the PLO, as you know. That dialogue is not an end in itself. We will use it to determine whether Arafat is ready to take concrete steps to allow a process of Israeli-Palestinian accommodation on the West Bank and in Gaza to develop. We are hopeful at this point, but it is early in the process. There is certainly a long way to go, but we have a process underway, we think, that is rooted in reality. We want to build on what the prime minister has brought us — and it is significant — and it is important that all of those who are committed to peace — Arabs, Israelis, Palestinians and Americans — not reject out of hand the ideas that Shamir has brought and that we work constructively together to give it a fair hearing.

We are, in a word, asking everyone to give us a chance to make this work, and we recognise that it will take time. We also say to you that it is nothing that will lead to an immediate or obvious breakthrough. The word again, is step-by-step process, and we have

only begun with the small steps necessary to hopefully, bring us to a substantial change in conditions in the Middle East.

I would be happy to try to answer any questions for about five minutes.

3 more turn martyr

(Continued from page 1)

Bank city of Nablis and two in Jelazoun refugee camp.

All these areas were under curfew at the time, as was Dheisheh where Kasas was shot.

At least 437 Palestinians have been killed in the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising.

All 650,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and more than 300,000 in the West Bank were under curfew Sunday, one year after Abu Jihad was gunned down at his Tunis home.

Despite the army curfews, dozens of protests were reported Sunday.

In Nablis, dozens of pictures of Abu Jihad were plastered on walls and utility poles. In Tul-karem, Palestinians chanted over loudspeakers: "Abu Jihad, rest in peace. We continue the struggle."

Israel never officially acknowledged responsibility for the Abu Jihad assassination, but authoritative Israeli sources said the inner cabinet ordered it in the belief that Abu Jihad was directing the uprising.

News of the killing last year sparked violent protests in the occupied territories and troops shot dead 14 Palestinians, the highest death toll for a single day since the uprising started in December 1987.

Posters and slogans commemorating Abu Jihad have appeared all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip since last week. Police said they arrested 45 Arabs after a bomb exploded in a dustbin in a Tel Aviv suburb. The blast caused no injuries.

Arafat reaffirms stand

In Tunis, Palestine President and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday the PLO would accept elections in the occupied territories under two conditions — that they be held after withdrawal of Israeli troops and under U.N. supervision.

During a ceremony organised to commemorate the anniversary

of the assassination of Abu Jihad, the PLO leader said he also would accept a "transitional period" of a few months before a final solution.

During a visit to Washington earlier this month, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir proposed organising elections in the occupied territories so their residents can choose representatives for peace talks. The United States said the proposal was encouraging.

"I say to (American President George) Bush, don't treat us any better than Namibia," Arafat said at the ceremony.

"Did you not say for Namibia: withdrawal, then (deployment of) U.N. (forces), then elections? Who said we were hostile to elections? We want elections, but is there a single free man in the world who would accept elections under the shadow of occupation?"

Shamir wins cabinet backing

Shamir meanwhile won broad cabinet support Sunday for his election proposal. Israeli ministers said.

But two right-wing ministers voiced doubts, suggesting Shamir may face opposition from hard-liners in his own Likud party, as well as the public rejection by Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Shamir, who returned from the United States Friday, presented his four-point plan to the cabinet Sunday after receiving cautious backing from President George Bush.

"I believe it is a good initiative," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters after the meeting. "This initiative puts the ball in the Arab, Palestinian court because Israel offers something concrete — how to move from the present situation towards peace on our eastern border."

Right-wing ministers David Levy and Yitzhak Mordechai expressed misgivings, saying the plan would only "legitimise" candidates from the PLO.

Central America and superpower rivalry

By Bernd Debusmann
Reporter

MEXICO CITY — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for an end to the arms race in Central America has highlighted a vast gulf between superpower words and deeds in an area armed to the teeth.

Moscow and Washington have pumped weapons worth billions of dollars to their respective clients in Central America, giving it one of the world's highest rates of military growth over the past decade.

Military supplies from bullets to bombers and tanks have continued despite earnest public declarations from both superpowers that there can be no peace as long as militarisation of the region continues.

Gorbachev made the latest superpower call for an end to arms deliveries during his visit to Cuba last week. "There is at the present time a real possibility to ensure peace and security in the region," he said in Havana.

"A major condition for this would be a halt to military supplies from wherever they come." Similar statements in the past have not been matched by any reduction of Soviet supplies to Nicaragua, whose armed forces have increased more than tenfold in the past decade to become the biggest in Central America.

In turn, the U.S. government has shown no inclination to translate into deeds periodic calls for a halt to weapons supplies. Congress has cut military supplies to right-wing insurgents in Nicaragua but U.S. client governments in El Salvador and Honduras continue to receive large amounts of weapons.

"It has been the same story year after year," said a Latin American diplomat. "The Americans say they will stop once the Russians say they will stop the Americans stop. It is always 'you first' and no one is making the first move."

In January the United States completed delivery of a squadron of F-5 fighter jets to Honduras, at \$72 million the biggest single military deal in Central America for years.

The fighters, the most advanced aircraft in the Central American arsenal, were shipped three months ahead of schedule and ensured Honduran air superiority over Nicaragua.

Western diplomats said the early deliveries of the F-5s was meant as a signal from President Bush that he was committed to backing Honduras, Washington's closest ally in Central America, as was President Reagan.

The superpowers' apparent hypocrisy underscores the fact that Central America has yet to benefit from the improved climate in U.S.-Soviet relations which has led to disarmament moves elsewhere.

In Europe, Moscow took the first step by announcing a reduction in conventional ground forces and short-range missiles. But in Central America, neither of the two big powers have budged from their original rationale for arming their clients to the hilt.

Soon after the revolutionaries of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua toppled dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, Washington accused the Sandinistas in complicity with Cuba of running arms to left-wing rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

Western military experts say they do not expect sizeable cuts in military aid from either superpower though the staggering growth rates of the past are unlikely to be repeated.

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Taxi! Taxi!

In a word apparently obsessed with design and yearly model improvements, it's nice to find a 40-year-old product still going strong. It's name? The London Taxi. **Arturo Gonzalez** reports.

ALL THINGS considered, the British have a lot to be proud of in their distinctive London taxicab. Consider some of its amenities: a 1.75-metre height predetermined so that a gentleman may sit in with his top hat on and not touch the roof. Forty-centimetre-deep cushioned seats. Physical separation by glass from the driver. Two jump seats so that four can fit inside its 1.7 metre-wide rear passenger compartment. Rear-view mirrors mounted on the wings or at such an angle in the cab so as to ensure passenger privacy.

A rear compartment heater and lights which can be turned on by the passenger. A well-lit meter positioned so that nothing blocks it from the clients' view. And a turning radius of under seven metres, making possible, for this 3.8 metre long car, some of the sharpest U-turns imaginable.

The boxy British Leyland, Austin-designed FX4 has hardly changed materially since the 1920s when it was first conceived. The current model dates back to 1948, the year Prince Charles was born. Several prime ministers later, the car has hardly altered.

Maybe the British have built such a good cab because they've been in the business of chauffeuring people around 'longer than most.

History of 'taxi-cabs'

In 1634, a retired sea captain in London began renting out five horse-drawn cabs to people who didn't want to muddy their feet in the dirt of the city streets. Drivers arrived liveried and bewigged and charged about 12 cents a mile. London's oldest cab stand is on the Strand where it has been for over 350 years.

Then came Joseph Aloysius Hansom, a milestone name in the history of British cab. He designed the distinctive horse-

drawn, two-wheeler in which Sherlock Holmes clip-clopped through the foggy gaslit London streets.

In 1896 there were 7,580 hansom cabs in London, as against only 13,500 cabs today. The hansom held sway until 1904 when automobiles clattered onto London's streets.

The term "cab" comes from the French *cabriolet de place*, a horse-drawn cart for hire in London and Paris in the early 1800s. To register the tax on a ride, the French in 1898 installed a taxi-meter and the term "taxi-cab" was born.

The London Hackney Carriages Act — named for a breed of horse which used to pull early cabs — is more than 100 years old and has still not been fully overhauled by British authorities. Until the late 1940s, every cabbie on the roads was legally obliged to provide one bale of hay a day for his animal.

Actually, London's first laws governing cabs date back to 1657 when Cromwell's officials forbade "over-charging, wanton and reckless driving, refusing to accept a hiring," and decreed "anyone guilty of the said abuses shall be whipped."

Perhaps the British Government has been a little slow to rewrite its 1869 Public Carriages Act, but there is nothing backwards about the way it currently manages its cabs and cabbies.

Since 1850, the Carriage Office has been part of Scotland Yard. A staff of close to 80 runs 13,500 cabs and 18,500 drivers criss-crossing the 1,735 miles of roadway in London's 650 square miles.

Stringent checks

One requirement: which other countries might do well to imitate is an annual stringent breakdown, reassembly and overhaul of every cab on the road. At the busy Public Car-

riage House in London, 80 cabs a day get a going-over that's a mechanic's dream. Checks are so stringent that most owners find it unprofitable to keep a cab on the road for more than 10 years.

Of course, the British cab is not perfect. It is diesel-powered for economy, but drivers complain that the four-cylinder engine is noisy. And it's not designed for speed; if a driver puts his foot down, he's lucky to hit 100 kilometres per hour. But on Britain's city streets, speed is seldom possible anyway. Also, the boot is small, but this is compensated for by commodious luggage space alongside the driver.

There's no doubt that the four-speed Austin taxi is a vehicle which reaches out and simply grips the affections of men who admire automobiles. One eccentric millionaire had a cab specially built for himself several years ago with assorted gold fittings and electrically operated windows. When part of his estate was auctioned off, it went for close to \$15,000.

An American tycoon, Franklyn Bower, decided several years ago that the London taxi was the perfect gift for the "man who had everything" and ordered 32 vintage vehicles for about \$75,000, shipping charges included.

Changes 'unwelcome'

The most frightening of all thoughts is that the British are tampering with this near-perfect design. London Taxis International has a new model, fashioned on the Range Rover, ready to come out. Called the CR6, it will cost cabbies about \$16,500. If they roll out in quantity, it will mean a lot of free rides; tradition has it that the first passenger gets the ride on the house.

Another grisly prospect: Some London cabs may soon be equipped with back seat videos which will play 30 minutes of commercials at passengers. Happily, there will be a passenger block-off switch. Several prestigious London



Aspiring London cabbies have to prove they know all of London's 7,500 street names.

firms have their own private cabs. Courts the bankers have a maroon model; stockbrokers Grieson Corant's is green; realtors Knight, Frank and Rutley has a phone in its private taxi.

Budget Rent-a-Car has been renting a white London cab (sans meter and "Taxi" sign) for those who want to get behind the wheel of this ultimate auto.

Genial drivers

There is one other element which makes a ride in a British taxi a delight in comparison with enduring a trip elsewhere. The difference is the British taxi driver. Sporting nicknames like Billy the Coalman, Shinee Tops and Randy Raw, wearing their traditional brass lapel badges, taxi drivers are a unique and dedicated, bluff and genial bunch.

One is a knight, Sir Tom Sharman, who continued to drive even after the queen tapped him on the shoulder for his work with Britain's housing associations.

Becoming a London cabbie is no cinch. Applicants must put in 15 to 18 months of study, taking an oral exam every two or three weeks at Scotland Yard's Public Carriage Office to obtain the distinctive green licence. The candidates have to prove they know all of London's 7,500 street names within

a six-mile radius of Charing Cross station. About 1,500 hopefuls, average age 20, tackle the course each year; less than 750 make it.

Ernie Keats of the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association explains the routine. "The Carriage Office gives each man a little blue book with about 450 routes in downtown London in it, and he has to learn the most direct way to each spot. By the time he's finished with the book and the training, he's crossed and re-crossed the same streets hundreds of times. Then he's also 'On The Knowledge'. That means getting on a motorbike to follow all the routes he'll eventually drive, learning the one-way streets, memorising every cinema, theatre, museum, hotel and train station.

"The men learn London with a vengeance because, after all, it's a job for a lifetime, isn't it?"

The trade has a lingo all its own: "Mushers" are owner-drivers; "journeymen" the drivers who rent their cabs; "butterboys" newly licensed cabbies.

British cabbies have a reputation for being thoughtful and responsible men. Often you'll see a cab trying to make a U-turn into a long line of London traffic and, inevitably, it's a fellow cabbie who'll blink his lights and make a gap so his buddy can slip in. For years an elderly British

driver in Ledbury took it on himself to attend to the transportation needs of a widow in her 80s, waiting for her when she shopped, coming by to pick her up at regular times. "I suppose she was my best customer," he recalls. "She told me she was going to leave me something in her will but I never took any notice of that."

When she died at 86, he got the biggest tip of his life from her; \$75,000.

My own favourite British cabbie story is a personal one. I had to travel out to Silverstone to photograph Grand Prix driver Jackie Stewart in a race, and took a five-mile cab ride from the train station to the speedway. In the cab, I asked the driver if he'd pick me up at the gate at 5 p.m. and he agreed.

At five, I arrived at the spot but was dismayed to find that the police had converted the two-way highway into a one-way exit road from the track. There was absolutely no way for the cabbie to drive up to me. I asked a policeman how I might get home and he suggested walking a mile down the road, until it became two-way again. These I'd find a bus which would get me to the station. So I started tramping. Halfway there I met my driver — walking up. Picking me up meant a two-mile hike for him from where he was parked, but he'd made a promise, hadn't he? — Reprinted from Emirates Inflight magazine.

Birdwatchers turn to Morocco for rare species

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

MOULAY BOU SELHAM, Morocco — International conservationists have joined forces to try to save the Moroccan winter resting ground of one of the world's rarest birds.

Experts reckon the slender billed curlew — *Numenius tenuirostris* — to be the most endangered species of migratory bird in Europe and Africa, with fewer than 100 left.

"It is quite simply on the brink of extinction," Alastair Gammell of Britain's Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB) told Reuters.

Bird watchers during the past three months spotted three slender billed curlews wintering on the Merja Zerga lagoon, near the picturesque town of Moulay Bou Selham on Morocco's Atlantic coast.

The bird, small and whitish with black and brown spots, breeds in the central Siberian marshes, and then in the autumn it migrates thousands of miles across Eastern Europe to Africa.

"It is extremely rare. No nest has been found in the Soviet Union since before the Russian revolution. Less than 100 is a really desperate situation for a bird that migrates so many thousands of miles," said Adam Gretton of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP).

The ICBP has launched a campaign to save the species which has thrown the spotlight on the 7,000-hectare coastal reserve, hitherto known to only a handful of bird watchers.

Conservationists are concerned about hunting which takes place on the edge of the reserve, and poaching and overfishing by the local population. They also fear the scenic area could be targeted for major tourism developments.

The RSPB and ICBP organised a day's seminar at a hotel near the reserve recently to try to make local officials more aware of the

importance of the site. Gretton said the seminar was a great success. "Somehow we have to try and develop a plan which rationalises all the competing interests for the area," Gretton said.

Before they were spotted on the Merja Zerga lagoon, slender billed curlews had been glimpsed only sporadically over the last 10 years coming down to feed during the long journey westwards.

Gretton said the species ran into trouble because of the disappearance of European marshlands as more and more land has been cultivated, and hunting also took a very big toll.

"Merja Zerga is the only place in the world where the slender billed curlew can now be seen with any certainty," he said.

Before leaving for the Soviet Union in late March, the three birds were frequently spotted over a three-month period, often feeding alongside flocks of other breeds of curlew.

After the bird was regularly spotted feeding in the mudflats surrounding the reserve in the winter of 1987, hundreds of excited European birdwatchers arrived, hoping to catch a glimpse of it.

The slender billed curlew shares its winter hideaway with other endangered species, such as crested coots and marbled teals. Many other migrating birds stop off for a few days on their way to other African wintering grounds.

"Migratory birds need a network of stop-off points to feed up at, rather like petrol stations for cars on motorways. Merja Zerga is quite simply one of the most important in northwest Africa for wintering water birds," Gretton said.

On a good day at the reserve, birdwatchers can see pink flamingoes from Spain and France on their way to West Africa, flocks of spoon-billed oyster catchers wheeling in the sun, and enormous rafts of resting wild ducks.

Rushdie affair fails to cloud Romans' ecumenical spirit

The planned mosque of Rome, being used by Italy's right wing to stir up communal trouble against the country's Muslims, but the ecumenical spirit remains strong in the home of the Roman Catholic church.

By Fabrisio Fontemaggi

ROME — The Salman Rushdie affair, used by the right wing to spread alarm about the planned completion next year of the first mosque in Rome, has failed to cloud the Romans' liberal outlook on the changing map of their city.

Although recent weeks have seen much heated publicity being given to the Muslim presence in Italy — some 700,000 people of diverse backgrounds in Asia and Africa — prominent Italians have

also counselled moderation and they have been given a hearing. The debate over the Muslims, in fact, is an offshoot of the controversy over the influx of people from Italy's former colonies, political trouble spots in the Middle East and economically strapped countries of Asia and South and Central America.

Until last year the controversy was overshadowed by the "Le Pen factor," or worries that the rise of the National Front in neighbouring France was about to have a spillover effect in Italy.

But the fear was fuelled by a combination of influential moderate opinion and Italians' own ambivalence and attitude towards foreigners.

As a spokesperson for Italy's largest Islamic centre based in Milan, which serves some 50,000 Muslims in the area pointed out, "I don't rule out that the idea to emulate Le Pen may occur to a politician. But it would be his grave political speaking — Italians are very different from Frenchmen." The observation has proven correct with time, although right-wing sentiment remains strong.

The controversy over the mosque has sprung more from its opponents' perceptions than from

completion of the main building. Work on other buildings, including a cultural centre, library and museum will be started when additional donations are made into the mosque fund.

The idea of a mosque in Rome was first raised during the 1930s regime of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, who refused permission. The subject was raised several times after the end of the war but it was not until 1965 that the stage was set with the Vatican declaration of respect for Islam.

When King Faisal visited Rome in 1973, he received assurances that the mosque's construction would not be blocked. A site was then chosen near the Tiber River, a few miles from the Vatican, and

work began in 1983. None of this would have been possible, of course, had the Vatican not relented in its original opposition to the project. In recent years not only has the Vatican shown an increasing willingness to work with Islam, its outlook has been influenced in no uncertain terms by the events in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Since the start of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, the Vatican has shown cognizance of the close bond that exists between its followers in the Christian communities of the occupied territories and the Muslims. On the other hand, it has apparently been perturbed by the conversions of several thousand Italian Catholics

to Islam. The Vatican's strong condemnation of the Satanic Verses seemed to reinforce an oft-repeated idea that the Vatican would stand behind the faithful irrespective of their religious denomination.

Italian and Vatican analysts believe that by standing aside the Vatican and Italy have made a significant long-term diplomatic investment in the world of Islam.

Not only has their approval of the project given both a greater leverage in dealing with chronic issues, such as the conflict in Lebanon. Although a large part of the Muslim immigrants still are awaiting legalisation, and some 4,000 of them are students, others

are well on their way to settling down in the country. In the Sicilian province of Palermo alone some 600 Arabs are married to Italian women while in the country as a whole the figure is over 6,000. Italians argue that they can perhaps be accused of indifference, but not intolerance.

Most Italians remember all too vividly their own recent history. At least 25 million Italians have emigrated to the high-tech metropolitan jungles of America, Canada, Australia and elsewhere. In this peculiar history of the Italians lies hope, analysts believe, that the rightist sentiment will not easily overwhelm the saner and moderate opinion in the country. — Academic File.

'Ecstasy' — the in-thing in New York City nightclubs

By Allison Havey
Reuter

NEW YORK — Ecstasy, a psychedelic drug first popular in the 1960s has reappeared in New York nightclubs.

Users say it makes them feel happy, warm and sensual.

"I feel great when I take ecstasy. My worst enemy becomes my best friend," said one.

On any night there is a party somewhere in a smoke-filled club packed with young men and women swaying to the resonant sounds of "house music" and downing a drug they think has no harmful side effects.

The scene at one Lower East side club on a recent night was typical. The pillow-filled lounges were packed with young people under a glare of psychedelic lights.

They sat close together touching and hugging, their faces lit with smiles. Some had their hands coated with white powder that they occasionally licked or mixed in water to drink.

The powder was methylene dioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), known as ecstasy.

Many drug experts say it is quickly becoming the drug of choice for New York City's affluent club youngsters.

Ecstasy, a man-made hallucinogen, has been dubbed the LSD of the 1980s. Users call the high it produces an "experience" although its effect is not as potent as that produced by LSD.

The drug is made in clandestine home laboratories and distributed by drug dealers who also sell heroin and cocaine. Police say it is easy to make.

A 23-year-old woman said she buys the drug once a month for \$10 to \$30 a dose. The effect lasts

four to six hours. "The high is great for a club. The energy is there for dancing and touching," she said. "The high is very enlightening. Ecstasy is a perfect name."

Ecstasy is illegal and the government puts it in the same category as cocaine and heroin.

Robert Stutman, New York director of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), says MDMA produces the same effects as LSD, such as paranoia and psychotic behaviour.

He said the drug is taken by the same group of people who used LSD in the 1960s: predominantly white, financially secure 18 to 24-year-olds.

"Ecstasy is a major problem out on the West Coast... here in New York the drug is used in small amounts by the young, rich yuppie crowds," he said.

Use in research

MDMA has an advocate in Rick Doblin, a student at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, who says the drug is useful to psychotherapeutic research.

He says it has few side effects and there is not much proof of serious complications, a view many psychotherapists and drug experts dispute.

Doblin says ecstasy can be taken in a controlled setting, allowing the user to get in touch with a range of emotions that otherwise might remain repressed.

According to Doblin, who says the drug will be legal by the year 2000, "MDMA is one of the safest drugs it is not particularly addictive, nor does it leave you feeling out of control. Drugs like MDMA act as a microscope into

the mind. It teaches you and the doctor more about your psyche." Doblin says people with a history of heart disease should avoid ecstasy because the drug increases the heart rate and raises blood pressure. One young woman in New York died of a heart attack in February after taking the drug.

Experts say users could experience severe depression and become psychologically addicted. Some researchers believe it may harm the central nervous system.

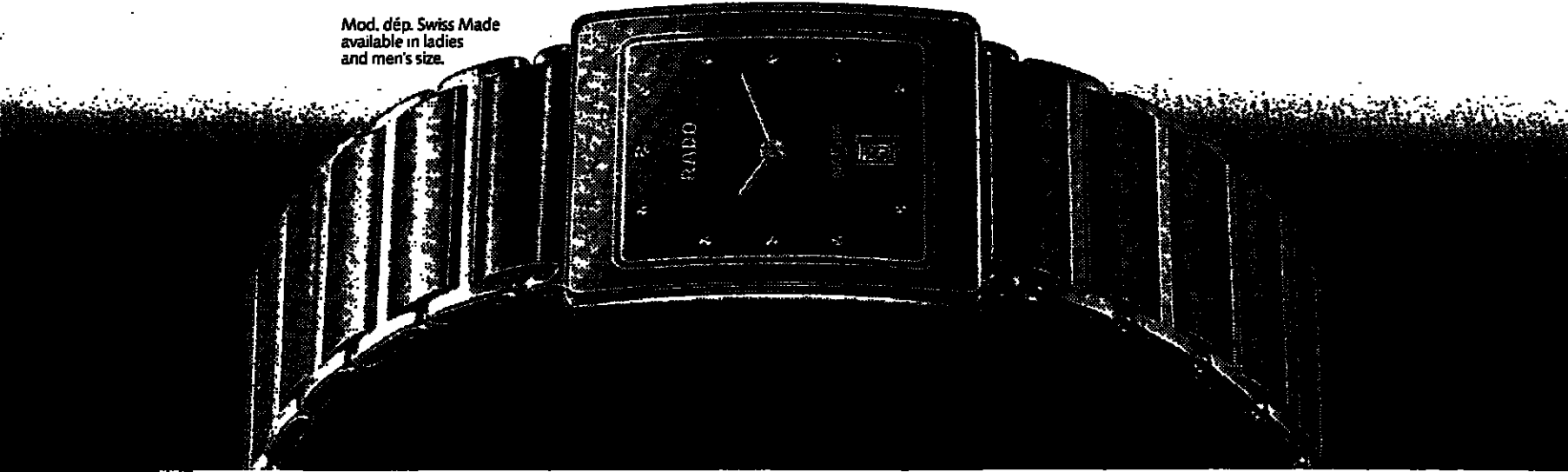
At Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Dr. George Ricaurte is conducting an experiment with MDMA and humans to determine whether it harms the body.

The study has not attracted many volunteers because it requires a spinal tap. "Right now, not enough people have been studied to publish any solid conclusions," Ricaurte said.

MDMA was first manufactured in 1912 as an appetite suppressant. It has been used in American psychiatry, and psychotherapists continue to use the drug in Switzerland.

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Fighting exacerbates economic hardships for all Lebanese

BEIRUT (AP) — Coughing and rubbing smoke-filled eyes, the workers at the Cortas canning factory gutted in Lebanon's civil war fighting crouched on blackened floors, rummaging through charred cans to salvage what they could.

"Our place of work has been turned into a dungeon of hell," a woman said as she picked her way along wooden planks placed over a big puddle of molasses spilled from burst cans.

The three-story plant and its big refrigeration unit, which produced canned vegetables, sauces and jams, is one of at least five factories set ablaze when a nearby fuel depot in the Dora district of east Beirut was hit by rockets March 30.

Sixty per cent of Lebanon's gasoline reserves and 80 per cent of its diesel oil stocks went up in flames in the Dora fire, forcing serious electricity cuts. With fuel in short supply, many businesses have been unable to use their

own generators for power. Lebanon's manufacturers, who focus on light industry, reportedly have lost at least \$100 million in a month of fierce artillery and rocket battles.

Employees at a factory near Beirut said they stopped going to work two weeks ago because "the militias set up positions on the first floor and turned the basement into a shelter where they hide from the shelling."

The owner, who declined to be identified and did not want his factory's location mentioned for security reasons, said he is "losing millions of dollars a day."

Most of Lebanon's industry is concentrated in the Dora and Mekaleh districts of east Beirut,

which is bombarded almost daily. Somehow the economy, reflecting the resilience of the people who have lived through all the horrors, has stumbled on.

Complete collapse has been staved off because Lebanon, or what remains of what was once a recognisable state, has gold reserves worth an estimated \$4.5 billion, among the largest in the world.

Some leaders have argued that up to one-third of these assets should be sold to prop up the mangled economy. But political squabbling has torpedoed such efforts.

"The Lebanese have learned to operate under conditions of extreme political instability and even under the conditions of war we're seeing now," noted Professor Samir Makdisi, who teaches economics at the American University of Beirut.

But many Lebanese fear that

the current fighting, and the worsening damage to industry, could sound the death knell of the economy if it drags on for much longer.

An estimated 40 per cent of the industrial sector has been destroyed. Businesses have been wrecked, others driven to the wall.

Inflation is currently pegged at a crippling annual rate of 425 per cent.

The value of the Lebanese lira, once one of the strongest currencies in the Middle East, has slumped from 2.5 to the dollar in 1975 to an all-time low of 700 to the dollar.

The current minimum monthly wage of 25,000 liras is now worth a mere \$30, barely enough for a family to survive amid soaring prices in a country that imports most of its essentials.

The plummeting Lebanese lira and cheap labour was a boon to light industry, making exports of leather goods, processed food, candy, fabrics and clothing highly competitive, particularly in the Arab World and Western Europe.

Minister criticises French oil firms

PARIS (R) — French Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy has criticised French oil companies for the second time in three days, warning that rising petrol prices risked fuelling inflation.

"The rise in crude oil prices imposes the need for greater vigilance, now more than ever," Berégovoy's ministry said in a statement commenting on a provisional annual inflation figure for March of 3.7 per cent, up by 0.3 per cent from February.

Interviewed by French radio, Berégovoy said he would encourage more competition among

petrol companies to slow the recent spate of rises.

"When the Rotterdam price goes down, prices at the pump take 18 days to react but when they rise, companies don't wait as long. It's just not reasonable," he said.

The price of petrol has risen to more than six francs (almost \$1) a litre at some pumps from less than five francs (80 cents) in January.

Rotterdam spot crude prices have risen since Dec. 26 from 77 centimes (12 cents) to 1.19 francs

(19 cents).

Berégovoy was particularly critical of state-controlled Total Compagnie Française Des Pétroles, the country's second largest oil firm, which he said had gone "a bit too far."

Total director Armand Guillaud said: "If companies have the same prices, we are accused of fixing. If prices are different, we are told we've gone too far."

"Why don't they ask the same question of coffee producers?" he told Reuters.

On Tuesday, Berégovoy

advised motorists to shop around for the cheapest petrol and called on companies to "recover their senses," after the last round of increases at the end of March.

Petrol industry sources say French petrol is among the most expensive in Europe because of a 77 per cent tax on the price at the pumps.

Junior Consumer Affairs Minister Veronique Neiertz said that, although the government had raised taxes in January, recent price rises were due to firms lifting their profit margins.

British inflation edges up to 7.9 per cent

LONDON (R) — Britain's annual inflation rate rose slightly in March to 7.9 per cent, its highest level since 1982, official figures have said.

The increase of 0.1 per cent over February was lower than economists had been forecasting and below the eight per cent psychological barrier which might have renewed pressure on the government to raise interest rates.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said last month that inflation would peak at around eight per cent later in the year before falling to 5.5 per cent by December.

The treasury said the figure of 7.9 per cent was consistent with its forecasts.

Fears of a sharper acceleration in inflation were spurred by an announcement last week of rises in fuel and raw material costs and wage settlements.

With pay deals averaging 9.25 per cent and rising, some analysts and government critics warned the country could be on the brink of a wages and prices spiral which could torpedo Lawson's economic strategy.

The government is anxious to avoid the political consequences of a rise in bank base interest

rates above their present level of 13 per cent.

Such a move would force a further rise in the cost of home loans and would itself be inflationary as well as further damaging Lawson's credibility as manager of the economy.

The treasury said that costlier home loans had contributed significantly to the rise in inflation since last July when the rate stood at 4.8 per cent.

Of the 3.1 per cent the index has gone up since then, the treasury said 2.4 per cent was due to higher mortgage payments result-

ing from interest rates rising.

A statement by Employment Minister Norman Fowler added: "If mortgage interest payments are excluded, the (annual) rate of price increases in March was 5.7 per cent."

Lawson began pushing up interest rates early last June when the base rate stood at 7.5 per cent in order to stifle an unforeseen consumer-led spending boom which sucked in imports, causing inflationary pressures and contributing immensely to a £14.5 billion (\$24.7 billion) balance of payments deficit in 1988.

Shipping expert foresees shortage of supertankers

KUWAIT (AP) — A top Gulf shipping executive said in an interview published Saturday the world is on the verge of a supertanker shortage that could quadruple freight rates.

"The world will witness a shortage of tankers within two years such as occurred in the 1970s and freight rates are set to increase three-fold or four-fold," Abdul Fattah Al Bader, chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company, KOTC, said in an interview published in the daily Al Watan.

Bader estimated the total number of tankers currently operating worldwide at 380, sixty more than needed to ship present crude oil production.

But if Gulf output increases by

two million tonnes, that surplus would be insufficient, he said. "The number of tankers is inadequate for handling the expected increase in the world's crude production," Bader said.

Bader did not elaborate, but at least two Gulf countries, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — are seeking higher production quotas from the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Bader predicted that the maritime transport market would improve further when Iran and Iraq sign a peace treaty to solidify a U.S.-sponsored ceasefire that halted the eight-year Gulf war last Aug. 22.

Rebuilding the two countries'

war-ravaged economies will cost several hundred billion dollars, according to Western analysts.

Bader said the KOTC had cut operating costs from \$18 per ton of oil in 1980 to \$10 "which is one of the lowest fares in the world."

He attributed the savings to trimming tanker crews from 30 to 18 men and reducing fuel consumption.

"We have become one of the most competitive companies in the world," Bader said.

He said the state-run KOTC, which has 30 tankers with a total capacity of 2,562,159 tonnes, was considering plans to internationalise its tanker operations, and a study would soon be presented to the board.

U.S. expects \$450 billion in '89 capital spending

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. businesses plan to increase their investment in new facilities and equipment in 1989 for the third consecutive year, but not by as much as last year, the government has said.

Based on surveys of business executives taken between January and March, the Commerce Department projected a 6.3 per cent increase in capital spending this year to an inflation-adjusted \$450.39 billion after a revised 10.1 per cent spending jump in 1988.

The more modest capital spending increase, while still reflecting optimistic outlook among executives, also shows that they expect the economy to grow at a slower pace, largely because of

rising interest rates, economists said.

"It seems reasonable that you're going to see somewhat of a slowdown in plant and equipment spending growth just because of higher interest rates," said economist Kathryn Kobe of Joel Popkin and Co., a Washington forecasting firm.

The latest projected increase in 1989 capital spending was higher than the 5.9 per cent gain estimated by the department in December based on surveys taken in October and November.

Last year's 10.1 per cent spending increase was the largest since a 16.6 per cent gain in 1984 even though it was revised down from a previously estimated 10.8 per cent rise.

Investments in new facilities and equipment are essential not only to improve the competitiveness of American companies in world markets, but also to increase efficiency, expand production capacity and thereby ease inflationary pressure.

As the amount of capacity used by manufacturers rose to a nine-year high over the past year, companies have sometimes raised prices to cover their additional costs of production. These price hikes have been cited as a source of inflation.

The projected 6.3 per cent real spending increase for 1989 is still higher than the 2.3 per cent increase in 1987 and the 3.9 per cent decline in 1986.

Economists said the continued growth of business investment, albeit at a slower rate, will partially offset the sluggishness now emerging in other parts of the economy.

The biggest planned slowdowns in spending growth were among manufacturing companies, where the department estimated that capital spending would rise by 4.1 per cent this year after a 12.9 per cent rise in 1988.

Since manufacturing companies, especially in the chemical, paper, textile and aircraft industries, have been using the greatest share of their capacity, economists were concerned that they are not planning bigger capital spending increases.

Makers of long-lasting durable goods expected to raise their 1989 spending by 3.0 per cent after a 10.7 per cent increase last year, while non-durable goods producers expected spending to rise 5.1 per cent after a 14.9 per cent gain.

Spending by non-manufacturing businesses, including mining, transportation, public utilities and a range of service industries, was expected to rise 7.7 per cent this year after an 8.4 per cent increase in 1988.

The petroleum industry, whose capital spending is usually the largest of any single industry, is planning to cut its investment this year by 3.1 per cent after a 16.4 per cent rise in 1988.

Dublin, oil firms settle row

DUBLIN (R) — Multinational oil firms have agreed to lift their ban on petrol imports to the Irish republic, scrap promotional gifts and accept a government price freeze for the rest of this month.

But the oil firms were far from satisfied with the temporary peace formula hammered out with Industry Minister Ray Burke who conceded that prices might have to rise in May.

"There will be no price increases at the pumps at present," Burke said after four hours of talks with the oil companies. He had accused them of using "strong-arm tactics on a small

nation."

Esso and Shell halted imports Monday, saying they acted because the government was forcing them to sell at a loss.

The government imposed the freeze March 31 to prevent the oil companies from introducing rises equivalent to 11.5 cents a gallon (2.5 cents a litre) in line with increases in Britain.

Petrol in Ireland costs the equivalent of \$3.90 a gallon (\$6.70 cents a litre), one of the highest pump prices in Europe.

Burke, whose major concern is trying to maintain Ireland's 3.3 per cent inflation at its current

low level, conceded that his petrol price formula might be only temporary because of the present rise in world oil prices.

"We cannot ignore international trends," he said after the talks to work out a compromise with the multinationals.

Burke pledged to introduce legislation banning promotional gifts which he said added about five pence (7.5 cents) to the price of a gallon of petrol.

The oil companies agreed to resume imports but at a reduced level. The difference will be made up by the state-owned Irish National Petroleum Company from Ireland's Whitegate refinery.

LIMA (R) — When International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials arrive in Peru Monday, they will begin evaluating an economy in which prices double about every six weeks.

Inflation in Peru has soared past 200 per cent this year and despite the bold predictions of President Alan Garcia's government economists say it shows no signs of letting up.

What the IMF technical delegation, the third to visit this crisis-ridden country since October, will probably not find is a change in Garcia's firm stand on foreign debt repayments.

Garcia has held fast to his 1985 pledge to limit payments on the \$19 billion debt to 10 per cent of export income, a stance that won him admirers throughout Latin America but has made Peru an outcast in the world financial community.

In March the Inter-American Development Bank, Peru's last major foreign creditor, cut off loans after it fell more than \$100 million in arrears in its repayments.

"With this IMF visit, the government is basically trying to buy time," said economist Manuel Moreira, a former Central Reserve Bank president.

"The government will be able to change nothing but, for political reasons, give the appearance that it is reestablishing dialogue with creditors," he told Reuters.

Raging inflation is only one symptom of what economists call Peru's economic crack-up in the past year, aggravated by leftist guerrilla violence which is approaching the point of civil war in some parts of the country.

Peru's net foreign exchange reserves are deep in the red with a negative balance of \$199 million in March, official figures show.

The gross domestic product tumbled eight per cent last year and estimates for this year's drop range from five to 10 per cent, depending mainly on whether Garcia can get a grip on inflation.

There are a few bright spots. The all-important mining sector, responsible for about half of Peru's exports, is already making a modest recovery after production was slashed last year by two miners' strikes.

Exports, the key to any general economic recovery, appear to be rising slowly but steadily after Peru's trade surplus reached a bare \$26 million last year.

But pessimism about the economy still reigns among middle class Peruvians, many of whom

have had to stop driving the cars they bought in better times because petrol has become so expensive, and in the dusty shantytowns that ring the capital.

Real wages have dropped over 25 per cent since the beginning of the year, wrecking local commerce and forcing businessmen to look to export markets.

The basis of official economic policy is still a tough austerity package announced in September. The package has received mixed reviews from economists who credit it with easing food shortages by cutting subsidies, though at enormous social cost.

But millions of Peruvian consumers blame their plight on the

package, saying it was just the sort of austerity plan the IMF would have ordered but without the accompanying IMF loans due to the government's debt stand.

Yet the government has vowed to continue paying the debt on its own terms until the end of Garcia's presidency next year.

Environmentalists urge Japan to protect tropical forests

TOKYO (R) — An international environmental group has urged Japan to move immediately to prevent destruction of tropical forests.

"Japan is overconsuming timber in a way that finds no other parallel in the world... it needs to take measures immediately," Yoichi Kuroda, coordinator of the Japan Tropical Forest Action Network, told a news conference.

Kuroda and French economist Francois Nectoux have just completed a report on Japan's tropical timber trade and its environmental impact for the World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) and plan to present it to the Japanese government.

The report said Japan, the world's largest importer of tropical hardwood products, accounts for nearly half the tropical timber exports of the industrialised nations and over a quarter the total international trade in tropical timber.

Japan is turning to Africa and South America, particularly Brazil, as South East Asian countries, its current major suppliers, have started to restrict exports after their rain forests were over-exploited and largely destroyed by Japanese, the report said.

WWF officials said an area of forest half the size of Britain disappears every year

thousands of species in the forests are in danger of being lost by the end of the century.

Kuroda said he hoped the report would mark a start toward a new Japanese policy for conserving rain forests. He said Japan still lacks a comprehensive approach, despite some signs of change from previous policies of financing development projects that have often paved the way for forest destruction.

"We are not saying 'hands off.' We are not telling people not to use the resources, but we are saying they should use them wisely," John Hanks of the WWF said.

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The tender-document is available for consultation only at the Information Offices of the European Communities in: D-5300 Bonn, Zitelmannstrasse 22

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English Soccer Round-up

FA CUP

Everton 1, Norwich 0 (1-0)

Pat Nevin's lucky goal in the 26th minute gave Everton the victory and a spot in the FA Cup final. Nevin outpaced Norwich goalie Bryan Gunn to the ball after defender Ian Crook banged a bad clearance off his own goalpost. Norwich, which was trying to bounce back from four losses in its last five league matches, had its dreams of cup victory shattered when it missed several scoring opportunities. Robert Rosario missed the last one, a makeable shot in the 71st minute, and said afterward that the sun blinded him. 46,553.

DIVISION 1

Arsenal 1, New Castle 0 (0-0)

Brian Marwood scored his 12th goal of the season to take Arsenal back to the top of Division 1. Arsenal broke down a dogged Newcastle after 70 minutes. David Rocastle picked up the ball in midfield and pushed it through for Michael Thomas who turned it inside for Newcastle to drive past goalkeeper Gary Kelly. Newcastle, second from the bottom of the first division, played with five across the back and seemed determined to earn a draw. The visitors would have won, missing two chances midway through the first half. 38,023.

Luton 2, Coventry 2 (0-0)

Luton threw away two points it badly needed in its fight against relegation when captain Steve Foster and fellow defender David Beaumont both scored own goals. Luton took the lead in the 54th minute when defender John

Dreyer headed his first goal for the club from a corner by David Preece. But in the 70th minute, a shot by Cyrille Regis bounced off the knee of Foster into his own net. Luton regained the lead after 75 minutes when Danny Wilson followed up his own penalty miss, but four minutes later Beaumont and goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain both went for a header by David Speedie and Beaumont got the final touch, heading into his own net. 8,610.

Manchester United 0, Derby 2 (0-1)

Manchester United's abysmal run continued as visiting Derby crushed to a comfortable victory on goals by Gary Mickelwhite in the third minute and Paul Goddard in the 66th minute.

QPR 0, Middlesbrough 0 (0-0)

Visiting Middlesbrough missed four chances for a victory. Twice in the first half Stuart Ripley tore QPR's defence to shreds only to see first Mark Proctor and then Bernie Slaven finish feebly. After the half Slaven then set up Alan Half Slaven who shot wide. Then David Seaman saved from Ripley and Peter Reid cleared Middlesbrough's shot off the line. 10,347.

West Ham 1, Southampton 2 (1-1)

Rodney Wallace scored just 33 seconds after the kickoff and West Ham never recovered. The Hammers, last in the division, tied the score 1-1 on Liam Brady's penalty kick at 25 minutes but Paul Rideout headed home a cross in the 51st minute for the victory.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Johnson could run in '92 Olympics

MONTREAL (AP) — Ben Johnson may yet be able to run for Canada at the 1992 Olympics despite his positive test for steroids at the Seoul games last fall, Canadian Olympic Association President Roger Jackson says. "I think there's a possibility of that, yes," said Jackson Saturday. Jackson said the results of a Canadian inquiry into the use of banned drugs in sport would be reviewed by the association to determine if Johnson could run again. The inquiry, in progress in Toronto, is to run through the summer. Johnson, who tested positive for steroids after winning the 100 metres in world record time in Seoul, was banned for life by federal sports minister Jean Charest, but Jackson said it was unclear what the ban meant. He said he interpreted Charest's move as saying that no federal government funds, or funds from any federally-funded group, could support Johnson "but we all know Ben Johnson doesn't need federal funding."

Bassa retains WBA flyweight title

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (R) — Colombian Fidel Bassa retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight title and his unbeaten professional record by stopping Panamanian Julio Gudino in the sixth round early Sunday. Venezuelan referee Isidro Rodriguez halted the contest after Bassa caught Gudino with a hard left hand punch and followed up with a flurry of blows which drove Gudino back onto the ropes. Gudino began to look tired in the third round after Bassa punched open a cut over the Panamanian's left eyebrow. But he recovered and in the fifth round unleashed a flurry of his own which left Bassa's right eye swollen. But Bassa's final onslaught in the sixth round backed the Panamanian on to the ropes and the referee decided he could no longer defend himself.

Graf, Sabatini advance to final

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. (R) — Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini advanced to the singles final of the Amelia Island women's tournament by identical scores Saturday, giving Graf a chance to settle a score Sunday. Graf, the world number one, beat sixth seed Arantxa Sanchez of Spain 6-3, 6-2, while third-seeded Sabatini subdued second seed Martina Navratilova by the same count in the semifinals of the \$300,000 tournament. The victory extended Graf's unbeaten record this year to 31 matches and the final affords her the opportunity to avenge one of her rare defeats in 1988. Last year Sabatini beat the West German 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 on these same clay courts for her second victory of the year against Graf, who lost only three times while winning 72 matches in her Grand Slam season. "Last year was my best match against Graf, it was the most emotional," said Sabatini, who has won only twice in 17 matches against Graf. "This is another year and we both have improved a lot. I think I'll have a good chance."

Jansher Khan beaten in British Open

LONDON (R) — Former world champion Jansher Khan failed to get beyond the quarter-finals of the British Open Squash tournament for the second year running Saturday. Second seeded Jansher crashed out after a humiliating 9-4, 9-6, 9-0 defeat by Australian Chris Robertson in just 46 minutes. Jansher had been seeded to meet his rival and fellow-Pakistani Jahangir Khan, an easy winner Saturday, in Monday's final. But world number six Robertson spoiled his plans, collecting the biggest win of his career as he demolished compatriot Rodney Martin, who put Jansher out at the quarter-final stage last year.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Blythe Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Planned events may not turn out as designed. Many will prefer independent situations where they can do their own thing. Push-and-shove may occur when some people exert themselves selfishly.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Listen to your inner self today. It is a quiet time. Emotional rewards give you peace of mind and a new outlook.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Cutting down will improve your measurements. The morning hours are the most productive. It is a great time to be creative.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): The news is mixed. Social adventures can be a blast, but business plans can be shattered and you must pick up the pieces.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 22): You are confronted with some wacky views that come as a complete surprise. Join friends for a social meeting.

LEO (Jul. 23 to Aug. 22): Set light meals to taper the tummy. The domestic scene is working smoothly. Be prepared for a great evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Negative aspects caution about the control and handling of money. A friend is popularizing his or her own secret. Avoid gossip and scandal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Daydreaming of places and adventure will not get your work done. Stay in focus if you have important matters that can't be set aside.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Optimism and enthusiasm can set your week off with a bang. Progress is being made on all fronts. You get full moon help Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be prepared for a minor disappointment. Otherwise it is a smooth sailing morning. Avoid decisions and stay with basic themes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): A new friendship is in bloom. Romance can be a very special affair. Don't be afraid to make the first move.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Hold any important transactions or hold off on decisions. Caution is needed when doing hazardous activities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): You are making a good impression on the right person. Your vitality is high. Get into playful activities that are recreational.

Oresar wins final place from behind at R. Oaks

HOUSTON (AP) — Bruno of Yugoslavia escaped a series of third-set break points and won 11 of the final 12 points to defeat Leonardo Lavalle of Mexico 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 Saturday in a semifinals match of the River Oaks tennis tournament.

Oresar's opponent in Sunday's finals will be Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden, who used accurate first serves for a 6-3, 6-3 over Derrick Rostagno of the United States.

Oresar fought off three break points to hold his serve in the first game of the final set and he withstood two break points in the seventh game.

With the score at deuce in the seventh game, Oresar broke on two errors by Lavalle, served a love game and took a 4-0 lead in the final game, a series of 10 straight points.

Oresar hit a backhand error before serving an ace to end the match.

"I had so many break points when he was serving and I didn't take advantage of them," Lavalle said. "That is the difference in matches like this."

Oresar said the quicker surface of the River Oaks Country Club's red clay courts distracted him at the start of the match.

"I liked it better when it was slower," he said. "In the first set I was too upset with the conditions."

Gustafsson hit 86 per cent of his first serves, including 1 in a row to start the match.

After being broken in the first game of the second set, Gustafsson broke back in the sixth game and against in the eighth game.

He won it at the first match point with a forehand winner in the ninth game.

Gustafsson's plan was to play steady tennis and let his opponent make the errors and the strategy worked. Rostagno hit 37 errors to only 18 for Gustafsson.

"I think I played steady the whole game and didn't miss that much," Gustafsson said. "He was playing too much up and down." Gustafsson didn't miss a first serve until he double-faulted in the first point of the eighth game, ending a string of 15 first serves in a row.

"He didn't let me play as well as I'd like," Rostagno said. "When I hit a good shot he counter-punched real well. He'd hit it at my feet and I'd have to start from scratch."

Rostagno was sluggish from the start, losing his serve in the fifth and seventh games. He double-faulted at break point in the fifth game.

Rostagno's only challenge came when he broke Gustafsson in the first game of the second set and held for a 3-1 lead.

"I started to get into the match in the second set, then I had just a few mental lapses on some key points," Rostagno said. "That happened three or four times and that was the difference."

World Hockey Championship

USSR takes U.S. 4-2

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Rookie Sergei Fedorov scored two goals Saturday as the Soviet Union defeated a surprisingly strong United States 4-2 in the first round of the world hockey championships.

The American team has played together for less than a week only, but matched the Soviets with an aggressive brand of hockey for more than 48 minutes.

Sergei Makarov, the center of the famous Soviet line, broke a 2-2 tie at 8:09 of the third period. Dmitri Kvartalnov, another world championship rookie, added a fourth goal with less than two minutes remaining.

Team Canada, led by defenseman David Ellett's two goals, overcame Finland 6-4 in a game at Sodertalje, south of Stockholm.

Defending world champion Sweden played group A newcomer Poland Saturday night at Stockholm's New Globe Arena, billed as the biggest spherical building in the world.

Fedorov brought the Soviets, who are favoured to win their 21st world title, into the lead twice in the opening period. Each time the U.S. team struck back.

Tom O'Regan made it 1-1 at 8:58 and Tom Chorske tied it 2-2 at 13:45. The second period was scoreless.

Ed Olczyk beat Soviet goalie Sergei Mylnikov with a minute left, but his goal disallowed because of high sticking.

"We're disappointed that the goal was disallowed," said U.S. coach Tim Taylor. "But we must live with it. It was a fine hockey game and I'm very proud of my players and their efforts today."

Defenseman Bedrich Scerban scored midway through the final period to give Czechoslovakia a 3-3 tie with West Germany in the

opening game earlier Saturday. Scerban beat goalie Karl Priesen from close range at 11:20 on the power play as the Czechs rallied from two goals down to pick up a well-deserved point.

Veteran Dieter Hegen scored the first goal of the championships at 11:58 in the opening period, firing a slap shot past goalie Dominik Hasek.

Centre Vladimir Ruzicka tied it for Czechoslovakia at 12:48 as the West Germans were playing one man short.

Axel Kammerer and Gerhard Truntschka, who had assisted on Hegen's goal, scored within 58 seconds late in the second period to give the Germans a 3-1 lead.

Ruzicka set up Jergus Baca with the Czechs' second goal with 3:22 gone in the final session.

West Germany has closed the gap to Czechoslovakia and the other traditional hockey powers in recent years. West Germany twice won in the world championships since 1982 and last year upset Czechoslovakia 2-1 in the Calgary Olympics.

Orioles beats Red Sox 12-4

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Sheets and Brady Anderson hit a three-run homer and the Baltimore Orioles took advantage of Mike Boddicker's early wildness to beat the Boston Red Sox 12-4.

Boddicker, 1-1, allowed five runs on seven hits with three walks, a wild pitch and a hit batter in 5 1/3 innings. He lost for just the second time in eight starts at Fenway Park since being traded from Baltimore to Boston last July 29.

Jeff Ballard, 2-0, gave up two runs on six hits in 5 2/3 innings. Rookie Gregg Olson finished for his first major-league save.

In other games in the American League Saturday, Texas beat Detroit 4-1, Chicago beat Oakland 7-4, Kansas City defeated Toronto 10-5, Milwaukee beat Cleveland 5-1 and California beat Seattle 9-2.

Rangers 4, Tigers 1

Scott Fletcher went 3-for-3 and scored twice and rookie Kevin Brown pitched a seven-inning Saturday as the Texas Rangers won their seventh straight game, 4-1 over the Detroit Tigers.

The Rangers' 9-1 start is their best since the franchise moved to Texas 17 years ago. Detroit, 2-6,

is off to its worst start since 1980. Brown, 1-0, walked one and struck out five. Frank Tanana, 1-1, took the loss.

White Sox 7, Athletics 4

Dave Gallagher's three-run homer capped a five-run second inning, leading Jerry Reuss and the Chicago White Sox over the Oakland Athletics 7-4.

All five runs in the second inning off Bob Welch, 2-1, were unearned because of shortstop Mike Gallego's error. Gallego started in place of Walt Weiss, who has the flu.

Royals 10, Blue Jays 5

Pat Tabler did it again with the bases loaded, hitting a single that keyed a three-run rally in the seventh inning and sent the Kansas City Royals over the Toronto Blue Jays 10-5.

Tabler, 38-for-66 with 90 RBI in his career with the bases loaded, singled home one run for a 6-5 lead. The Royals scored four times in the ninth on a three-run double by Danny Tartabull and an RBI single by Bo Jackson.

Jackson also hit a two-run homer and a double.

Brewers 5, Indians 1

Rob Deer hit two home runs and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Cleveland Indians 5-1, ending Tom Candiotti's eight-game winning streak over two seasons.

Deer hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning for a 4-1 lead. He connected for his fourth home run of the season in the eighth against Candiotti, 1-1, who had not lost since last July 22.

Chris Bosio, 2-0, earned his second victory over Cleveland this season. He gave up six hits, struck out nine and walked one in 8 1/3 innings. Chuck Crim finished for his first save.

Angels 9, Mariners 2

Chuck Finley scattered nine singles as the California Angels beat the Seattle Mariners 9-2 Saturday night.

Finley, 2-1, walked two and struck out one en route to the complete game.

Chili Davis hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning and Devon White and Jack Howell hit solo home runs for the Angels. Seattle tied it 2-2 in the third on a two-run single by Harold Reynolds.

Wecker hits perfect 10 on bar

PARIS (AP) — East German gymnast Andreas Wecker swung to a perfect 10 on the fixed bar Saturday at the third Paris International Gymnastics competition.

Wecker had been pushing the talented Soviet Valentin Mogilyov at every stage of the finals by apparatus when he thrilled the capacity crowd at Paris' Bercy complex with a crisp, fast and complex sequence on the bar.

His control on the rings also earned him first place with 9.9 points, adding to three other placings against stiff competition from Mogilyov and Wang Chongsheng of China.

In the women's events, Daniela

Silivas of Romania and Svetlana Boginskaja of the Soviet Union clearly outpaced their competition, juggling first and second places between them on the beam and uneven bars.

But young American Kim Zmeskal provided a strong challenge with a perfectly timed floor sequence to the strains of Carmen.

Chen quitting of China, who appeared more settled after several falls Friday, won a gold medal with an energetic, technical floor sequence. She scored 9.95 points, while Silivas was second with 9.826 and Zmeska third with 9.825.

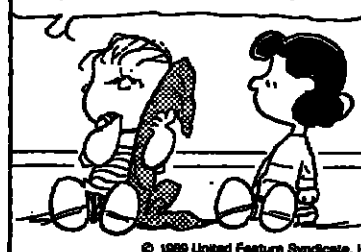
Zmeskal also was third on the balance beam with 9.675 points, following Silivas and Boginskaja. French gymnasts Stephanie Cottel and Jeanne Espinosa dominated the artistic events, but were edged out of the spotlight by consistently good performances from Anna Bautista of Spain.

The Paris international, in its third year, is the first major international gymnastics contest since the Seoul Olympics and is regarded as a testing ground for the new routines and marking procedures.

The three-day event ends Sunday with a new mixed pairs competition.

Peanuts

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO ANXIOUS TO CRITICIZE ME?



I JUST THINK I HAVE A KNACK FOR SEEING OTHER PEOPLE'S FAULTS..



WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN FAULTS?



Mutt'n' Jeff

SIR, THIS IMPUDENT SALESMAN TOLD ME TO GO SIT IN MY HAT!



I THINK YOU OWE OUR VICE PRESIDENT, MR. HORNSBY, AN APOLOGY!



AW GO SIT IN YOUR HAT!

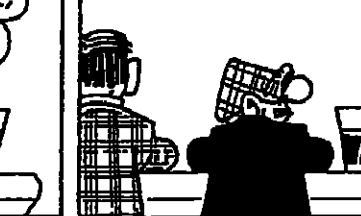


Andy Capp

THANKS, MISTER CAPP. YOU'VE BEEN MARRIED A LONG TIME - I APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE.



THAT'S ALL RIGHT, LAD - AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK, THREATEN TO LEAVE HER.



AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, TRY THREATENING NOT TO.



English Soccer Round-up

FA CUP

Everton 1, Norwich 0 (1-0)

Pat Nevin's lucky goal in the 26th minute gave Everton the victory and a spot in the FA Cup final. Nevin outpaced Norwich goalie Bryan Gunn to the ball after defender Ian Crook banged a bad clearance off his own goalpost. Norwich, which was trying to bounce back from four losses in its last five league matches, had its dreams of cup victory shattered when it missed several scoring opportunities. Robert Rosario missed the last one, a makeable shot in the 71st minute, and said afterward that the sun blinded him. 46,553.

DIVISION 1

Arsenal 1, New Castle 0 (0-0)

Brian Marwood scored his 12th goal of the season to take Arsenal back to the top of Division 1. Arsenal broke down a dogged Newcastle after 70 minutes. David Rocastle picked up the ball in midfield and pushed it through for Michael Thomas who turned it inside for Newcastle to drive past goalkeeper Gary Kelly. Newcastle, second from the bottom of the first division, played with five across the back and seemed determined to earn a draw. The visitors would have won, missing two chances midway through the first half. 38,023.

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Dreyer headed his first goal for the club from a corner by David Preece. But in the 70th minute, a shot by Cyrille Regis bounced off the knee of Foster into his own net. Luton regained the lead after 75 minutes when Danny Wilson followed up his own penalty miss, but four minutes later Beaumont and goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain both went for a header by David Speedie and Beaumont got the final touch, heading into his own net. 8,610.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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RUBBER AND DUPLICATE—TWO DIFFERENT GAMES!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 9

♥ 7 6 5

♦ 3

♣ 10 9 7 4 2

EAST

♠ 3 8 7 2

♥ A 10 9 3 2

♦ A 10 9 8 5

♣ Q 10

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 5 4 3

♥ Void

♦ 7 6 4 2

♣ A K 3

The bid goes:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

There can be great difference in technique between a pairs tournament and rubber bridge. Cover the East-West hands and, as South, decide how you would play the hand at both forms of the game.

Since South's spade ridge guarantees a six-card suit, North's invitational raise should be automatic. South has a little in reserve for his bid of four spades, but not enough

to do anything more. Note that six clubs, impossible to get to, is a pretty good contract.

Assume that you are playing in a pairs competition. You ruff the opening heart lead and decide that most of your fellow competitors also will be in four spades. Therefore, you should follow the percentage line in an effort to make as many tricks as possible. Ruff the opening heart lead and cash two rounds of trumps. Unfortunately, West shows out on the second round and a perfectly sound game bites the dust. Playing rubber bridge, before you do anything else you must determine what poses a risk to your contract. Here, obviously, the major threat comes from a 4-1 trump break. How can you neutralize that? Simple enough.

At trick two, lead a trump from hand and insert the table's nine! Even if the cards lie as in the diagram, you are safe. The best East can do when he wins the jack is, say, shift to a club. You win in hand, draw the three outstanding trumps by starting with the ace from hand, and then run the clubs. You will collect five spade tricks and six clubs for a well-deserved overtrick.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"He was about to win an argument for the very first time — and then he sprained his tongue."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these



Soccer fans climb to safety during the panic in which at least 94 people died Saturday at Sheffield's Hillsborough ground.

Sympathy, warnings, criticism raised after soccer disaster

LONDON (R) — World leaders and soccer officials have sent sympathy to Britain for the victims of the Sheffield stadium disaster Saturday in which 94 people died and 200 were injured when a crowd surged onto the packed terrace.

But soccer officials in Italy said the tragedy raised a question mark over a decision by the European Football Union Tuesday to allow English clubs back in European competition in 1990-91.

The clubs were banned in 1985 after 39 mainly Italian fans died after a rampage by English fans at a European Cup final in Brussels Heysel stadium between Liverpool and Juventus.

Italy's Soccer Federation Chief Antonio Matarrese said the tragedy raised "grave questions" about the decision to let English clubs return to European competition.

In Turin, Giovanni Boniperti, president of Juventus, said he was shocked and speechless at the Sheffield stadium disaster.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain spoke of an "unfortunate catastrophe" in a telegram to Queen Elizabeth and said: "Soft and I send you and all the nation the expression of our most sincere regrets."

French President Francois Mitterrand told British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher: "I have been deeply moved by the Sheffield drama and assure

you and the families of the victims of my personal condolences."

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, attending a foreign ministers meeting in Granada, Spain, sent condolences to the families of the victims.

"It's a very dark, sad day for soccer," said Jim Trecker, press officer for the U.S. World Cup Association, which will host the World Cup in 1994.

There were calls for improved safety rules at sporting events.

In Brazil, Tele Santana, the country's coach in the 1982 and 1986 world cups, told Reuters: "An accident of this nature is a great setback for soccer."

"This tragedy should remind the organizers of mass-sports events that the spectators' safety is their first duty."

"They should improve safety rules in stadiums and make sure they are kept," said Senator Fernando de la Rúa, author of an Argentine law against violence in sports.

Media attack

British Sunday newspapers were scathing in their condemnation of English soccer authorities after the stadium disaster.

"Despite disaster after disaster, nothing seems to shake the complacency or incompetence of those who run the country's most popular spectator sport," the Sunday Times said in a special front-page editorial.

"Soccer stadiums, and their administration, remain a disgrace. They are filthy, dangerous places that spectators only put up with because of their enthusiasm for what happens on the pitch."

The Sunday Times said Glasgow Rangers had built a modern stadium with virtually all-seated accommodation after the 1971 Ibrox disaster in which 66 people died.

"Clubs that cannot afford to follow this example do not deserve to be in first-class football," the paper said.

"Otherwise football will continue to be a slum sport played in slum conditions, and yesterday's tragic events will be repeated."

The Sunday Telegraph also devoted a front-page editorial to the disaster, saying the most shocking aspect of the latest football tragedy was that it came as no surprise.

"Patently the authorities have failed. They have no idea what to do. Inquiries are set up after each successive tragedy. New precautions are decreed. But to no avail," the Sunday Telegraph said.

"Football calamities are becoming as much a natural part of Britain's fate as are earthquakes in South America or famines in India."

Scotland's Sunday Mail said once again sports reporters had ended up as war correspondents "counting the dead as they were removed in full view of the cameras."

Angola: Over 500 SWAPO fighters back from Namibia

LUANDA (R) — More than 500 South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas from northern Namibia have been moved to positions

north of the 16th Parallel in Angola under a week-old withdrawal agreement, the Angolan news agency Angop said Sunday.

Angop quoted Angolan Defence Minister Colonel-General Pedro Maria Tonha as telling reporters in the southern city of Lubango Saturday that fighters were continuing to cross from Namibia.

But United Nations Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding, who accompanied Tonha on a tour of bases where the SWAPO guerrillas were being confined, told Reuters in Luanda Saturday night:

"We have not yet established how many have come back across the frontier."

He said he had asked the Angolan authorities to provide the exact number of guerrillas that had pulled back to Angola and their precise locations.

Goulding, who heads the U.N.'s peacekeeping forces around the world, is monitoring Angola's implementation of a U.N.-backed agreement made a week ago with South Africa and Cuba to withdraw SWAPO fighters from northern Namibia and confine them to bases in Angola north of the 16th Parallel.

The pullout is aimed at saving a U.N. independence plan for South Africa-ruled Namibia which was threatened by fierce fighting between SWAPO guerrillas and South African-led security forces that broke out within hours of the plan coming into force April 1.

South Africa says about 350 of the 1,600 SWAPO guerrillas it alleges infiltrated northern Namibia April 1 have returned to Angola so far. It says its forces killed at least 276 in the fighting.

Goulding said he saw several hundred armed and uniformed SWAPO fighters at Chibemba, a village in southern Huila province



A young SWAPO fighter who reported to a U.N. mission station in northern Namibia, talks to a U.N. monitor before receiving medical treatment for a bullet wound and being escorted back into Angola.

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Goulding said the authorities in southern Angola had commandeered civilian vehicles to help transport the guerrillas north of the 16th Parallel but they clearly had problems accommodating them.

"As far as we could see, the people had no infrastructure at all... there were no tents for all of them," he said adding that Angola had asked the U.N. to help provide shelter, food and medicine.

The U.N. envoy said 30 observers of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group for Namibia

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The U.N. envoy said 30 observers of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group for Namibia

(UNTAG) would arrive in Angola Tuesday to help monitor SWAPO's confinement to base.

U.N. sources said it was clear that the bulk of SWAPO forces had not been north of the 16th Parallel April 1 as they were meant to be under peace accords signed between South Africa, Angola and Cuba.

The sources said it was obvious Angola had had difficulty in controlling the SWAPO guerrillas which it has harboured and helped since Angolan independence from Portugal in 1975.

Thousands mourn Hu's death

PEKING (R) — Large crowds of students mourned Sunday the death of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, pasting up hundreds of posters on Peking campuses calling for freedom and democracy in China.

Banners hung out of windows, wreaths were placed over doorways and students squeezed together in silence to copy down texts of posters — political and poetic — which have appeared since Hu's death Saturday.

Students said it was the largest outpouring of discontent at Peking's restless campuses since late 1986 when nationwide demonstrations calling for democracy led to Hu's downfall.

They were not sure whether Hu's death would lead to more demonstrations.

"There is enormous pressure and control from the authorities. Some students want to demonstrate but there is no leadership," one student said.

Plainclothes police watched but did not intervene while small groups of students placed wreaths at the foot of the monument to

revolutionary heroes in central Peking's Tiananmen Square.

Hu, a liberal reformist backed by many of China's intellectuals, was removed as party leader in January 1987.

Hardliners accused him of pushing reforms too fast and of failing to control "bourgeois liberalism" — western political ideas of multi-party democracy.

He died of a heart attack, aged 73, still a member of the party's politburo but holding little effective power.

Official newspapers Sunday carried Hu's black-rimmed portrait and an obituary by the party which praised him as a great revolutionary who made enormous contributions to China.

A memorial ceremony would be held in Peking's vast Great Hall of the People and flags would be flown at half-mast across the country on a day of mourning. A date was not given.

The tribute described how Hu took part in the epic Long March in 1934 and rose through the ranks to become party leader in the 1980s. It did not give the

circumstances of his fall from grace.

Western diplomats said the party wanted to portray unity at a time of widespread discontent among intellectuals at the lack of political reforms and unrest among workers because of rapidly rising prices.

Leading dissident intellectuals who fell from grace with Hu said they learned of his death with sadness.

Astro-physicist Fang Lizhi said Hu's time in power, from 1980 to his downfall in 1987, had been "the best time for intellectuals in China."

More than 1,000 students flocked around noticeboards at Peking University. Artificial flowers and spring blossom were pinned to rows of posters.

"Hu's death is a great loss to the Chinese people's struggle for democracy and freedom. His spirit will shine forever in the continuing struggle for democracy and freedom," read one unsigned poster among more than 100 on the campus.

Philippine rebels offer ceasefire

MANILA (AP) — Communist rebels said Sunday they would declare a ceasefire and enter into peace talks if President Corason Aquino vows to close U.S. military bases in the Philippines by 1991.

The rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) made the proposal in a statement signed by former peace negotiator Satur Ocampo.

"If the Aquino government took such a step — through an official declaration or executive act affirming that, one, it will terminate the current executive agreement on the U.S. bases by 1991 and, two, that it will not enter into a new bases treaty with the U.S. after that — the National Democratic Front would not hesitate to immediately declare a unilateral ceasefire and enter into negotiations for a comprehensive political settlement and a peaceful end to the civil war,"

the statement said.

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Colombo asks Tigers to send negotiators

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Sunday responded to a militant Tamil offer to talk peace by asking their main political leader to send representatives to meet him, official sources said.

Evans Cooray, press secretary at the presidential secretariat, said a message has been conveyed to Anton Balasingham, political leader of the Tamil Tigers, asking him to nominate accredited representatives to talk with Premadasa.

Cooray said the message signed by K.H.A. Wijayadasa, secretary to the president, addressed to Balasingham, read:

"Your message to have a dialogue with the president of Sri Lanka is very much appreciated. He has instructed me to request you to nominate accredited representatives to discuss necessary

arrangements to facilitate the dialogue anywhere in Sri Lanka."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the dominant separatist group fighting for a separate Tamil state, Saturday agreed to talks with Premadasa.

The Tigers in a statement to the president that was telexed to news agencies in Colombo Saturday said: "We wish to inform you that we are prepared to accept your open invitation to talks to us. We hope that you will make the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue."

A Tiger leader in Colombo early Sunday said he met Premadasa at Anuradhapura, 165 kilometres north of Colombo, and personally conveyed the Tiger message.

The leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the president was very receptive and



Ranasinghe Premadasa

was keen to start the dialogue as soon as possible.

The efforts for talks between the government and the Tigers came amid continued violence which left at least 79 people dead since Thursday.

Suspected killer leaves trail of bodies

SONOMA, California (R) — Police following a trail of killings believed to be the work of a Mexican winery worker have found two of his baby daughters stabbed to death and a third with her throat cut.

The deaths, discovered Saturday, brought the number of killings so far to seven as police in helicopters and at roadblocks stepped up their search for the suspected killer, 28-year-old Ramon Salcido.

"The suspect is armed and extremely dangerous and everyone is in danger at this point," Sonoma County Sheriff Richard Michaelson said. "Certainly Ramon Salcido is not going to give up easily."

Police, led by an anonymous,

telephone caller, rushed to a site near Petaluma, 50 kilometres north of San Francisco, found the bodies of Salcido's two-year-old daughter, Teresa, and her four-year-old sister, Sophia. Their sister, Carmina, three, had a slash across her throat and was rushed to a local hospital.

Police said Carmina told them her father had slashed her throat and left her with her sisters on the site early Saturday morning. A man searching for valuables said he found the girls in a gulley.

Carmina was listed in stable condition after undergoing an operation.

Among the five earlier victims was her mother, Angelina, who police said had been shot dead in the family home at Boyes Hot

Springs, north of San Francisco.

Salcido was described by neighbours as a heavy-drinking, hot-tempered man who was insanely jealous about his wife — one of the first victims Friday — and had threatened to "blow the head off" anyone who made approaches to her.

Police said they believed Salcido had switched cars several times in an attempt to reach Mexico. A car found in the Sonoma area and believed used by Salcido contained a semi-automatic gun and the door was smeared with blood, police said.

The rampage began when Salcido, who worked at the Grand Cru winery in Sonoma County, 80 kilometres northeast of San Francisco, was alleged to have

shot and wounded a winery supervisor, Kenneth Butti.

Salcido is accused of then killing the assistant winemaker at Grand Cru winery, Tracey Toovey, whose body was found in a car near the winery. Toovey, who had a British wife, died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Salcido then drove to his home where his wife was killed.

The suspect grabbed his three daughters and drove to the home of his wife's parents in nearby Cotati. There, police found the bodies of Salcido's mother-in-law, Marian Richards, and her two children, Ruth 12, and Marie, eight. Michaelson said the girls had been sexually assaulted. "All three had their throats cut," Michaelson said.

COLUMN

Space-shy frogs delay launch

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Eight frogs which were to be sent into space to mate last week escaped before the rocket launch, delaying the experiment, the Swedish national news agency TT reports. The female frogs hid in the labyrinth-like building at the strange rocket centre in the northern city of Kiruna for several days until they were found, TT said. Researcher Ulf Hogman told TT that the frogs were part of a biological project to study various functions performed under weightless conditions. After the frogs were retrieved, they were united with males Monday and rocketed 300 kilometres into space. They were brought back to earth after one hour. TT said results of the tests were being studied.

Three-year-old wins \$225,000

ATHENS (R) — A three-year-old Greek boy has won \$225,000 in the national soccer pools after predicting the correct outcome of all 13 weekend matches. His parents, Nikos and Maria Argyridis, told reporters Ilias indicated the correct combinations to them from the pools leaflet, which includes first and second division matches. "I rarely play the soccer pools and sent in my son's predictions for fun. He seemed very sure of his choices despite the fact that his relation to soccer is presently confined to kicking a ball inside our house," his father said. Asked to comment on his luck, Ilias merely smiled shyly from his mother's arms.

Police hitchhike to crime scenes

HARARE (AP) — A shortage of patrol cars has forced Zimbabwe's police officers to hitchhike, bicycle or travel by public bus to the scenes of crimes, officials say. Law enforcement officers going into the countryside are given warrants to travel by train or bus, police chief of staff Christopher Lee told the Zimbabwe Inter-African News Agency (ZIANA). More than half of the police force's vehicles were off the road, needing servicing or repairs, the senior assistant commissioner said in an interview. His disclosure after several victims of burglaries in Harare suburbs complained they had to wait hours before police officers arrived to investigate. One policeman arrived at a house on foot, after walking five kilometres from his station.

Book of Kells to go into print

DUBLIN (R) — The Book of Kells, Ireland's national treasure which ranks as one of the world's most beautiful illuminated manuscripts, is going into print — almost 12 centuries after its creation. The first full colour facsimile edition of the fragile tome would go on sale for \$16,000 a copy from 1990, a spokeswoman for Dublin's Trinity College said. The book, a lavishly illustrated Latin text of the four Gospels produced by Irish monks in 800 A.D., is kept in the college library which turns over and displays a page a day.

Honesty, not luck wins woman lottery

RJUKAN, Norway (R) — A woman who bought a lottery ticket at her bank and left it on the counter after adding it was worthless, won 250,000 crowns (\$36,700) richer than an honest customer. The Norwegian daily Verdens Gang said Friday that the honest customer handed in the ticket and the bank traced the woman, whom it did not identify, with the help of video footage taken by security cameras.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	06 43	10 50	Cloudy
ATHENS	16 30	18 64	Clear
BAGDAHD	22 32	30 86	Clear
BANGKOK	28 35	35 95	Clear
Buenos Aires	15 26	28 79	Clear
CAIRO	18 24	32 90	Clear
CHICAGO	03 37	18 62	Rain
COENHAGEN	07 45	19 67	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	06 43	10 50	Fair
GENEVA	04 30	13 55	Clear
HONG KONG	19 08	21 70	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	10 30	19 65	Clear
JAKARTA	25 30	32 90	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	08 48	12 54	Cloudy
LONDON	15 80	21 70	Cloudy
MADRID	04 30	16 61	Clear
MEXICO	24 76	40 104	Cloudy
MIAMI	24 76	28 82	Cloudy
MONTREAL	05 41	08 46	Fair
MOSCOW	02 23	07 45	Cloudy
NEW YORK	19 36	37 99	Clear
PARIS	03 37	16 61	Cloudy
ROME	05 41	20 68	Clear
TOKYO	16 45	24 75	Cloudy
VIENNA	08 46	21 69	Clear